



# THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998

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Robot that laughs, lies and loves  page 16

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## Britain backs EU turn to the Left

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN is to join France, Germany and eight other European Union countries in a left-wing policy manifesto that commits the Government to common cause with the states inside monetary union.

Uniting in a single manifesto, the social democrat parties that now dominate the EU are to pledge themselves to co-ordinate economic policies for growth, including a push for harmonising taxes and heavy spending to boost employment and avert recessions.

Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's

hard-left Finance Minister, visits London tomorrow to join Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, in putting finishing touches to the paper setting out a left-wing "policy agenda" for a "New European Way" inside monetary union, to be launched on January 1. The paper, to be issued in Brussels on Sunday by the finance ministers of France, Germany, Britain and the eight other socialist-led states of the European Union, distils the new order in the EU which was consolidated with the election of Germany's Social Democrat Government in September. "A united Europe is our response to the challenge that global-

sation poses to old nation state policy," it says.

Although the manifesto is couched in broad terms, Britain's commitment to an agenda for managing monetary union is seen by other EU states as a powerful sign of the Government's eagerness to be part of the euro project. "They are trying every way to ensure that they are not excluded," a French official said. Another senior diplomat said the paper was Tony Blair's way of avoiding being sidelined from the "Euro-II" states which are joining the euro and harmonising policies in the euro zone.

Work on the paper, called *The*

*New European Way - Economic Reform in the Framework of EMU*, began in February during the British EU presidency. Only Belgium, Spain, Ireland and Luxembourg - states not led by left-wing parties - are not endorsing the paper, a draft of which has been obtained by *The Times*.

Its main thrust is a commitment to closer co-ordination of budget and economic policies to ensure growth and promote employment. "We have to co-operate, to co-ordinate and to develop a set of common rules for the economic and social well-being of European citizens," it says. In a whiff of regulatory

enthusiasm that would have been anathema to the previous British Government - or, indeed, the last German one - it says monetary union requires closer "co-ordination of economic and structural policies in order to promote fair rules of competition". Britain and the three other states not joining the euro at the start must "co-operate with ... those having already introduced the single currency in order to ensure the European Way."

On taxation, the manifesto mixes British-style calls for lightening the fiscal burden with the continental drive for tax harmonisation in the interest of "fair" competition. "Taxation

should not distort decisions with regard to labour, capital and services ... EMU will intensify the potential for tax competition. Therefore further efforts have to be undertaken to avoid harmful tax competition among the member states," the draft says. The EU's main target is to speed up work on minimum levels of tax on corporate profits and savings. Britain has until now been attempting to slow down both drives. On Monday, Herr Lafontaine predicted that the German EU presidency, starting in January, would achieve agreement on tax harmonisation by June.

The paper also mixes British-

backed pledges to remove barriers to trade with a French-inspired commitment to preserve public services previously run by the state. To protect services such as gas, electricity and telecoms, "we need a new culture of regulation," it says.

The agenda's most sensitive goal, in continental terms, is an attempt to reinforce the push by France, Germany and Italy to bring to heel the European Central Bank, the independent manager of the euro. The paper tells the bank it must take into account the needs of job creation.

Leading article, page 19

## Revolt by peers over curbs on Euro poll

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Lords yesterday staged a huge display of defiance against the Government when peers rejected for a fourth time plans to restrict voter choice in the European elections.

In what has become a bruising trial of strength between the Lords and the Government, peers insisted they had the right to ask the Commons to think again. The Lords has not defeated a government four times on the same issue since the 1970s when it threw out two nationalisation Bills.

Ministers spoke of a constitutional crisis and accused

peers of abusing their powers. They insisted that next summer's elections risked being plunged into chaos if the parliamentary impasse is not resolved over the next few days.

The Lords, as the inferior chamber, normally backs down after playing a couple of rounds of legislative "ping pong" with the Commons.

But peers voted by 261 to 198, a majority of 63, to insist that electors have the right to back an individual candidate in the new system of proportional representation being introduced for next year's poll.

The Government wants a so-called "closed list" system in which voters would determine how many seats a party wins but the parties themselves would decide which individuals become MEPs. The Tories, many crossbenchers, and some Labour backbenchers believe this gives too much power to party apparatchiks at the expense of voters.

The ping pong will continue today when the European Parliamentary Elections Bill returns to the Commons. The Government will introduce a new amendment - which it is bound to do under parliamentary rules - and, after a vote, send the Bill back to the Lords the same afternoon.

Five ping pong can continue indefinitely if the Commons continues sending back new amendments. The Bill would do only if agreement was not reached when the parliamentary session ends on Friday.

If it is lost, the Government can accept defeat and hold the elections under the existing first-past-the-post system; or it can reintroduce the Bill in next week's Queen's Speech.

Mr Blair's official spokesman said he saw the vote as "an affront to democracy". William Hague, the Tory leader, said it was a victory for commonsense and democracy.

Leading article, page 19



A meteor cuts across the star-lit sky, framed by a Joshua tree and rocks, in Southern California's Mojave Desert in this 30 minute-exposure photograph

## Comet 'brings extraterrestrial life'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Earth may have been showered with bacteria as it passed through the Leonid meteor stream last night, two astronomers believe. Professor Chandra Wickramasinghe and Sir Fred Hoyle have long championed the theory that microscopic forms of life may have originated elsewhere with Earth sweeping them up on its orbit.

Once ridiculed, the theory has gained in plausibility with the discovery that comets do contain large amounts of organic matter and carbon-based chemicals which include amino

acids, the basic building blocks of proteins. It achieved respectability last night when Nasa, the US space agency, launched its first "astrobiology" mission using aircraft to seek traces of extraterrestrial life in the meteor stream.

The Leonid shower, expected to peak at about 7pm yesterday, consists of the trail of the comet Tempel-Tuttle. As the Earth passes through that trail, thousands of tiny particles of matter burn up in the atmosphere to create "shooting stars" - brief streaks of light.

Every 33 years or so, the spectacle is enhanced because the comet has recently passed close to the Sun, boiling off more material from its surface. This

year and next promise such a show, and astronomers were out last night hoping to see a repeat of the last major Leonid storm in 1966.

Most people have overlooked the possibility of living bacteria from Tempel-Tuttle reaching the Earth, said Professor Wickramasinghe. Because the comet last passed close to the Sun only nine months ago, cometary particles will be freshly evaporated from its surface.

As well as solid particles the size of a grain of sand, which burn to create meteors, the stream will contain perhaps an equal mass of bacterial-sized particles, he believes. As these reach the stratosphere, they will be flash-heated

to 2300 (446F) or so for a few seconds. That is normally sufficient heat to sterilise bacteria, but laboratory experiments have shown some survive. Even bacteria deactivated by ultraviolet light - as they might be after nine months in orbit - can come back to life thanks to enzymes.

Each day some 50 tons of cometary dust reach Earth. During the Leonids, that could increase by a factor of ten thousand, leading to a total mass of a million tons.

If as little as one part in a thousand of that material is viable bacteria, the total drifting to Earth would be 100,000 billion billion, or 10 to the power of 23.

## Regiments cut back

Many of Britain's best-known regiments, such as the Green Howards and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, will be cut back in the restructured Territorial Army. Page 6

## Fishing curbs to tackle fall in salmon

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SALMON anglers are to face severe restrictions on the number of fish they can keep. The season during which anglers can keep salmon they catch is to be halved under radical plans to save the king of fish from extinction.

Proposals to be unveiled today by the Environment Agency will require anglers by law to release salmon they catch in

England and Wales up to June 16. It is hoped to save 2,000 to 3,000 Spring-running salmon or up to a fifth of the 12,000 of Britain's spawning stock.

The restrictions, which have been generally welcomed by anglers and owners of fishing hotels as more favourable than outright closures, will hit over 30,000 anglers.

The new, national bylaws which are expected to come into force, will cover over a dozen rivers. These include the main salmon angling rivers of

the Lune, Ribble and Eden in Lancashire; the Dee and Usk in Wales; the Wye in the West Country and the Exe, Tamar, Dart and Torridge in the South West.

Chris Poppard of the Salmon and Trout Association in London said that until now only the odd river in England and Wales had had any kind of restrictions and these have been purely voluntary.

The proposals, which come after alarm in Britain and abroad over the sharp decline

in salmon stocks, include a crackdown on the netting of migratory salmon returning to rivers at sea.

Experts blame global warming, which has raised temperatures in the Atlantic as well as the silting up of spawning beds from intensive agriculture and over-fishing.

In Scotland, restrictions are on a river by river basis. On the Tweed anglers catching before June 1 must throw the first fish back but can keep the second one.

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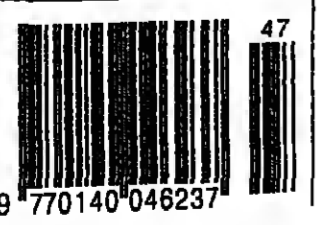
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# Just what a girl needs in a crisis - a Daddy to depend on

**H**elp! Dad! I'm in trouble! Quick!

If the cry comes from a favourite daughter, what father could resist? When, as I watched yesterday's Lords debate on the European Elections Bill, I saw Lord Callaghan of Cardiff rise to speak, I ran to watch. It was Daddy to the rescue.

This must be a crisis. Jim Callaghan, Britain's last Labour Prime Minister before Tony Blair, speaks rarely in the Upper Chamber. When he does, he speaks well. When he

does, it matters. His eldest daughter, Margaret, Baroness Jay of Paddington, Leader of the House of Lords, calls upon her father rarely in the House they share. When she does, she's in serious trouble. And so it proved. I have seldom seen Lord Callaghan speak more angrily or eloquently. At times he was shouting. In language almost never heard in that genteel place, he described Tory troublemakers as the "hooligan tendency". Adapting a remark of Balfour's he declared: "I'd as

soon consult my valet as consult the Earl of Onslow about political tactics."

Lord Onslow, an amiable but maverick fellow, proud to be a hooligan on this Bill, will have glowed with surprised pride. You need some sense of the courtesy and mutual regard which normally prevails among peers to appreciate the passion that insult was meant to convey, and did. This, declared Callaghan, his voice rising, was a "second-level issue" — no occasion for constitutional impasse. On the front

bench his daughter nodded in anxious approval.

"Call off your troops!" he shouted at the Tory Chief Whip, Lord Strathclyde. It had the ring of desperation. The crossbenchers — nervous, principled creatures — quivered. What were they about to do? Join a Tory conspiracy? Were they right to do it? The closest thing the Opposition could find to a Callaghan checkmate rose. Lord Tebbit angrily defended Lord Onslow. Was his friend supposed to send his valet, then, to speak?

Lord McNally, once a Labour MP, now a Liberal Democrat peer, repeated the determined but defensive argu-

ments his party has used for supporting a government measure they do not like. He sounded rattled. He called Callaghan "my noble friend" though they are of different parties. Aaah! shouted the Tories, regarding this as a Lib-Lab giveaway. "If you don't know that he'll always be my noble friend, then you don't know me," shouted McNally, abandoning the traditional indirect speech in his fury.

I have seldom seen both sides more a-quiver. Both conveyed a sense of knowing they

were on the brink of something from which it would be hard to retreat. Just as Lord Williams of Mostyn (also pale and quiet with emotion) was about to sum up for the Government, one of the bishops rose.

Bishops are the unguided missiles of the Upper Chamber — unguided by human agency, anyway: you can never know what a bishop is about to say because all too often he does not know himself. Bishops do not quite quake as Quakers quake when in-

habited by the inner light, but they convey a trembling innocence which suggests both naivety and authority: the holy fools of their Lordships' House. This Bishop (of Hereford), protesting his dissociation from every group — the Opposition, the Eurosceptics, the anti-PR peers — insisted that he was still "deeply unhappy" about the Bill. He would vote against it.

So it was God versus Daddy. God won. But Daddy will be back.



**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

## TUC sees Blair over fears of betrayal

Jill Sherman and Christine Buckley on confrontation at Downing Street

**ANGRY** union leaders warned Tony Blair last night not to bow to employers' demands to water down legislation on recognition rights.

A delegation led by John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, met the Prime Minister at Downing Street to challenge him over reports that he was about to agree to a series of changes which would make it more difficult for unions to secure recognition.

Legislation which is to be included in the Queen's Speech next week centres on giving unions recognition rights if 40 per cent of the workforce vote in favour. It also allows automatic recognition without a ballot if the union membership already covers 50 per cent of workers.

Unions fear that Mr Blair and Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, are about to accept a request by employers that members should have joined a union for at least three months before they can be counted for automatic recognition.

Employers are also pressing for Mr Blair to agree that union members would have to show that they wanted their unions to represent them in collective negotiations over pay and conditions. This could be done by asking members to tick a box on a piece of paper or through a further ballot.

Employers claim many workers would now be reluctant to hand bargaining over to unions, though they would wish them to represent them over disciplinary issues. The Prime Minister assured unions that no decisions had been taken and there would be further meetings between the TUC and the Government before any final agreement.

As he left the meeting, Mr Monks said that unions had

expressed their "strong concerns about recent reports that the Fairness at Work White Paper was being watered down and our opposition to some employers' attempts to make the details unworkable".

In what was described as a "business-like" meeting which lasted for nearly an hour, union chiefs accused Mr Blair of reneging on what was agreed last May after tough negotiations between employers and unions. Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, who is thought to be resisting changes to the White Paper, reassured NEC members earlier yesterday that there was no question that any changes would be in "breach of the spirit of the White Paper".

Union leaders, including traditionally loyalist bosses, believe that the Government has caved in to hardline calls from the Confederation of British Industry which has toughened its stance since Sir Clive Thompson, the outspoken chief executive of Rentokil Initial, became president.

At a recent Trade and Industry Select Committee hearing, Mr Mandelson, made his first public admission that union members would have to prove a commitment in their membership — the expected three-month qualifying period. Although he is later said to have told backbench MPs that he regretted going so far and had only meant all options were open, the Government is expected to back employers' calls for a qualifying period.

Unions fear it will give unscrupulous employers the opportunity to sack people before they reach the three-month mark. This is especially feared in industries such as building, contracting and services, where there is a high turnover of staff.



The Prince with new black recruits at the Army Training Regiment at Pirbright, Surrey, yesterday

## Prince 'knew persecuted feeling'

**By CLAUDIA JOSEPH**

THE Prince of Wales told a group of young black Army recruits yesterday that he had encountered prejudice during his career in the Services. Comparing the problems he suffered as a royal with the racism that he had felt like an outsider during his five years in the RAF and Royal Navy.

His revelations came during an informal chat with the new ethnic minority recruits of the Household Cavalry at the Army Training Regiment in Pirbright, Surrey, Dooovon Mowatt, 19, who spoke to the Prince, said: "He was eager to know if we had suffered racism. He said he understood because he had problems himself by who he was. He told me how he stuck out as being different because he was royal."

James Taylor, 20, said: "He seemed keen to know if we'd been pressurised to join up, and had we really wanted to do it because we wanted to? I told him it was like being in a big family and we have a lot of support. We're all part of the team and I haven't had any problems."

The drive to recruit more ethnic minorities into the Armed Forces began two years ago after a highly critical report from the Commission for Racial Equality of the Household Cavalry and concern by the Prince at the low number of ethnic minority guards outside Buckingham Palace or taking part in Trooping the Colour.

Now the Household Division, which consists of the Household Cavalry and the Footguards, has increased its ethnic minority recruits from 12 to 40, out of 3,500, and has set itself a target of 200 by 2000.

The Commission for Racial Equality said: "Even though he himself will never experience anything like young black squaddies in the Guards, at least [his experience] will enable him to relate to it."

## Consumers turn backs on modified foods

**By NICK NUTTALL**  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A GLOOMY assessment of the future for genetically modified foods in Britain has been made by an adviser to one of the world's big biotechnology firms.

In a confidential report to Monsanto, the US-based multinational, he argues that public disquiet over such crops and foods is deepening rather than evaporating.

The report comes in the wake of a £1 million advertising campaign by the company, whose genetically altered soya and other crops have been a key target of opponents. The campaign is aimed at presenting the science behind these novel products to boost public confidence.

The report, written this autumn, states: "The latest survey shows an ongoing collapse of public support for biotechnology and GM foods. At each point in this project, we keep thinking that we have reached the low point and that public thinking will stabilise. But we apparently have not reached that point."

The report, written by Stan Greenberg, an American polling adviser to President Clinton, Tony Blair and Gerhard Schroeder, the German Chancellor, argues that public opposition to gene-altered foods and crops is indeed accelerating.

He has found that the number of people in Britain who believe gene-modified ingredients are unacceptable has "skyrocketed" from 25 per cent last year to 44 per cent now. The number saying they are acceptable has fallen from 33 per cent to 25 per cent over the year.

The report, which was leaked to Greenpeace, claims that among European countries biotechnology and Monsanto itself face their toughest opposition in Britain.

A spokesman for Monsanto yesterday confirmed the accuracy of the leaked report.

## Taxpayer to fund advisers' pensions

By VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR has approved an expensive pensions perk for the 70-strong team of political aides and special advisers brought into his Government on top of their inflation-busting pay increases.

It is the first time the Government has allowed taxpayers' money to be used as contributions to the pensions of the ranks of ministerial "bag-carriers" and is a significant change to their contracts.

But last night the precise size of the new fund was not known. Mr Blair has declared that the total cost of political advisers is £3.6 million, double that for aides working for John Major's administration. The pensions may explain the hefty increase.

The precise breakdown of cash for pensions has not been disclosed but the Government told MPs a maximum of up to 16 per cent of a special adviser's salary can be used to fund a pension. The money can be paid into an existing or a new occupational pension scheme, or a personal one.

The change of policy was sneaked out to MPs in guidance placed in the Commons library outlining the pay structure for special advisers.

Under the Conservative Government political aides were not allowed a pensions contribution funded by the taxpayer.

MPs were also given details of the new pay bands for special advisers — Band AQ is from £26,000 to £45,000, Band B £40,000 to £60,000 and Band C £54,000 to £76,056.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Teachers promised bonuses

David Blunkett has promised to give thousands of teachers bonuses in reward for good performance. However, he admitted that the criteria for attaining the pay awards may put many with family commitments off the scheme.

The Education Secretary said it was crucial that teachers' pay structure be brought into line with other industries. Speaking to a conference organised by the Fabian Society yesterday, Mr Blunkett said he hoped a "very substantial number" of teachers would benefit from the proposals to be announced in a Green Paper within a month, but refused to give more details. He said unions would not strike after seeing the proposals.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said he was "deeply disappointed" over Mr Blunkett's ruling out an overall increase in teachers' pay.

## Doctor loses

A doctor who saved the life of a fellow passenger and then sent a £540 bill to the airline has had his claim thrown out of court. Dr John Stevens, 46, a consultant psychotherapist and psychiatrist, came to the aid of a woman who fell ill on an American Airlines flight to Heathrow last year.

## Judges' training

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, has written to every full-time judge in England and Wales to alert them to an "extensive" training programme being planned for judges on the Human Rights Act, which has "profound implications". The Act received Royal Assent on November 9.

## CSA charm drive

The Child Support Agency is to embark upon a charm offensive to improve its image. It is recruiting new staff with proven "life skills", Faith Boardman, the chief executive, told MPs yesterday that the agency had traditionally relied too much on employing people with academic qualifications.

## Award for writer

Michael Evans, the Defence Editor of *The Times*, was presented with the Desmond Western Maritime Media Award for his coverage of Royal Navy issues in the Strategic Defence Review. The award is for "the most constructive contribution to maritime affairs as they affect Britain".

## Legal bill dispute

A man has won the right in the Court of Appeal to challenge a £2,600 legal bill from a law firm that had his affairs handled by a clerk instead of a solicitor. Stuart Filbrow was horrified to learn that the woman from *Pearless & Rougement of East Grinstead* was not even a legal executive.

## Good news

Fears over the "dumbing down" of news may be unfounded. "Serious" news stories covered in early evening bulletins by the BBC, Sky and ITN have risen from 32 per cent in 1993 to 69 per cent today, according to a report by Goldsmith's College and the University of Westminster.

# Survival of the littlest

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## Carey warns on school reform

**Church fears education revamp will stifle its voice, Ruth Gledhill reports**

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, gave a warning last night of a potential clash between Church and State over threats to the Church of England's influence on education.

Dr Carey, outlining his strategy for the strengthening of the country's 5,000 Anglican schools, warned that government proposals to reform local government could weaken the Church's influence in schools.

Church leaders place particular value on the importance of a Christian education in contributing to the development of a child's moral ethos, and they are determined to stop proposals to remove church representatives from local authority education committees, and place them on "scrutiny committees".

Addressing the general synod at Church House, Westminster, Dr Carey described the government's consultation paper, *Modern Local Government*, as "one area of potential conflict" in the future.

Dr Carey said: "While the government has been receptive to many of our views about education, there is I fear the possibility — I put it no higher — of some of the shine being taken off that understanding."

"As currently envisaged in the consultation document on modern local government, the voice of the Church could be weakened."

Education committees are made up of elected members and co-opted church representatives with voting rights. Bishops are now concerned because the local government consultation document fails to guarantee the continuation of these voting rights.

However, a spokesman for the department of education, transport and the regions said that under the proposals, religious organisations would continue to be full voting members of local authority committees. But in future, they could be on the new "scrutiny committees" which would give them a "wider, more dynamic role".

Dr Carey spoke as the synod voted to set up a commission to look into the future of church schools, described as "popular and oversubscribed" in a recent church report. Dr Carey said that the education offered by church schools was so good that demand consistently exceeded supply. One reason, he said, was the good academic results achieved by church schools. Another was that they also nurtured the heart and soul.

"This unified and coherent approach is clearly appreciated by many parents," Dr Carey said.

"They see the kind of education we offer as right for their children, even though in some cases they may not regard themselves as Christian or religious at all."

□ The Church of England will soon acknowledge the existence of Leeds for the first time in its diocesan nomenclature. The synod voted to change the name of the diocese of Ripon to Ripon and Leeds.

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# Man who would be king digs up a traffic island

WHEN a man called Stuart Pendragon walked into his local civic offices and said he was a long-lost brother of the Prince of Wales and needed permission to dig up a traffic island to recover buried treasure, what did the council chief do? He gave it to him.

Now the chief executive of Mendip District Council is rueing his haste to get rid of Mr Pendragon.

Armed with his letter of authority, Mr Pendragon hired a mechanical digger, cordoned off an area of busy road and began to dig. When police arrived to ask what he was doing he simply waved the letter at them and was allowed to carry on digging.

The bearded treasure hunter was five feet down and getting deeper by the minute when concerned local residents alerted the highways authority, which finally put a stop to his excavations.

Mr Pendragon — no one is sure whether that is his real name — is a familiar face in Glastonbury, the Somerset town which boasts that it is the mystical centre of New Age Britain. A certified local eccentric, he is a regular visitor to the civic offices.

Now Mendip District Council has ordered an inquiry into why Graham Jeffs, its chief executive, gave in to his bizarre demand. Mr Pendragon

**Council chief regrets letting a local eccentric dig for treasure, reports Simon de Bruxelles**

from various people including the police, and in a bid to placate him, I decided to dictate him a very short note saying that he had got permission to dig the hole.

"But at the time nobody expected, and no one could envisage, him being able to hire a mechanical digger," he added. "I was concerned about the welfare of female staff as he can appear aggressive. The letter was given to him with the best intentions to placate him. In hindsight I wouldn't do it again."

Mr Pendragon and a friend began the search for buried treasure early on November 4. Neighbours watched in amazement as they ripped up the top layer of asphalt with the digger and then clambered into the hole armed with shovels and a metal detector.

As traffic jams built up, Somerset County Council asked its road management agents what was going on. The digger was removed and Mr Jeffs had to write a second letter countering the first.

When told that he should not have dug the hole, Mr Pendragon claimed that he was within inches of recovering the box.

Gloria Caswood, the council's Liberal Democrat leader, said: "I don't know the full background, but Mr Jeffs will be asked some questions."



Stuart Pendragon in the hole in Glastonbury. He was given permission to dig by the council's chief executive

# Airman 'lured women into film trap'

AN AIRMAN secretly filmed women as they undressed for photographic portraits at an RAF base, a court martial was told yesterday.

Senior Aircrewman Lee Carter, 29, is alleged to have used a hidden video camera to film eight women as they changed outfits to have their photographs taken in a studio at RAF Lossiemouth in north-east Scotland. Colleagues of the airman found the tapes in a brown bag in his locker, watched them and recognised some of the women.

The eight were colleagues or the wives of servicemen stationed at Lossiemouth. They were said to have been filmed over a 14-month period up to December 1996.

The court heard that the airman was employed as an official photographer at the base, and offered to take portraits of the women. Flight lieutenant Matthew Patterson, prosecuting, said: "He would ask them to bring changes of clothing and invited them into the studio. Unknown to them, they were being filmed by a strategically placed video camera. The videos were discovered in the defendant's locker in early 1997 and he was reported."

The court heard statements given by colleagues who watched the tapes after discovering them in his locker. One said: "We realised the camera had been set up in the video editing suite and was recording. After a moment or two, Lee Carter entered the room, adjusted the camera and left again. He then came back with a female and explained to her that the blinds were down and she could undress."

The court martial also watched some of the video footage. Senior Aircrewman Carter denies eight charges of disgraceful conduct of an indecent kind contrary to the Air Force Act of 1955. He had been due to leave the service in April this year, but his departure was put on hold because the court-martial proceedings were under way. The case continues today.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Teachers promised bonuses

David Blunkett has promised to give thousands of teachers bonuses in reward for their performance. However, he said that the criteria for awarding the bonuses will be set by the Education Secretary. It was crucial that local authority structures be brought in line with new initiatives. Mr Blunkett said that the bonuses would be based on the performance of teachers and schools. He said that the bonuses would be paid to teachers who had made a significant contribution to the education system. He said that the bonuses would be paid to teachers who had made a significant contribution to the education system.

## Doctor loses

A doctor has lost his job after being found guilty of professional misconduct. The doctor, who had been working for several years, was found guilty of failing to provide adequate care to his patients. The court heard that the doctor had been negligent in his duties and had caused harm to his patients. The doctor was found guilty of professional misconduct and was ordered to be removed from the register. The doctor was found guilty of professional misconduct and was ordered to be removed from the register.

# Man murdered judo opponent who had offered him a home



Beverly Price: she had defeated killer at judo

A MAN who strangled a woman judo opponent who had proved too skilful for him in club combat was jailed for life for murder yesterday.

Richard Roberts and Beverley Price had fought each other in practice bouts over a 15-month period. Roberts, 24, a brown belt, weighed three stone more than Miss Price, 23, but she was a black belt and one place off the British women's Olympic squad. Roberts told police that they had fought 50 to 60 practice bouts together at the Samurai Judo Club in Kidderminster but he "invariably lost".

Winchester Crown Court was told that Miss Price had offered Roberts,

formerly of Kidderminster, a temporary home in her Worcester flat when his parents threw him out for stealing cash from them to fund a gambling addiction. A month later, Miss Price returned from teaching judo and a violent row developed. Roberts, who was unemployed, demanded £20 from her after he had spent £300 playing fruit machines. He pushed Miss Price over when she refused to give him the money, and she responded by kicking him between the legs.

Roberts grabbed the belt from her judo trousers, which were nearby, and throttled her. Neighbours heard the noise coming from the flat.

Miss Price, who also played soccer

for Hereford United ladies and helped run a Baptist youth club, put up a desperate battle to save her life. Roberts said "I wanted to hurt her as she had hurt me. It was pure anger. She was falling about trying to get her fingers in the belt but it was too tight."

Roger Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said that Roberts had wound the belt twice round her neck and used his elbows as levers.

He added: "They knew each other's capabilities, but it was sheer power she was no match for his greater strength."

Roberts covered Miss Price's body with a duvet, and spent two nights at

her home. He withdrew £400 using her credit card and spent it gambling on fruit machines in a Worcester arcade.

Miss Price's mother was discovered by her mother after she failed to turn up at Midlands Electricity, where she was worked as a telecommunications engineer.

Roberts, a former scoutmaster, surrendered to police after arriving at the scene. He had lost his job with a fencing firm shortly before the killing, and was depressed over a failed love affair with another woman.

Roberts said that he had felt "three inches tall" when Miss Price refused him cash because he would only gamble

it away. Roberts claimed that he had lost his self-control because of provocation. But Mr Smith said: "He remembered the prize way he tightened the ligature. He was master of his own mind."

The victim's mother, Jean Price, 58, said later: "She was better than him at judo but the coward strangled her from behind — and he was a far heavier opponent. We shall never forgive him."

Mrs Price's husband Trevor, 57, added: "I cry every time her name is mentioned. Capital punishment should be brought back. Life should mean life and he should never come out of jail."

# Hired gunman gets life for killing boy, 5, in drug feud

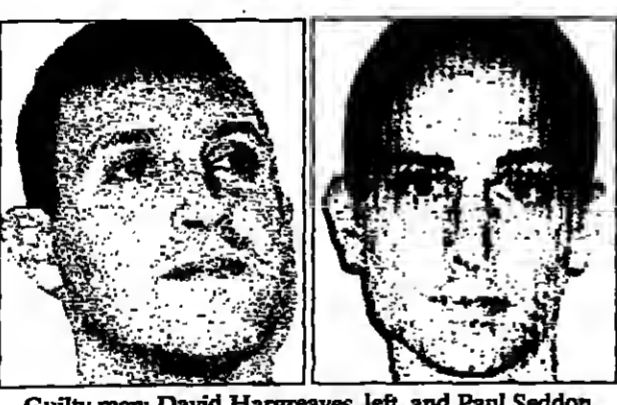
By Russell Jenkins

A HIRED gunman who shot and killed a five-year-old boy in a bungled ambush as the child walked hand in hand with his stepfather was jailed for life yesterday.

Paul Seddon, 27, described by police as a cold, calculating killer, was told by a judge at Preston Crown Court that he will have to serve at least 25 years after being convicted of murdering Dillon Hull in a Bolton street.

The jury also found two others, David Hargreaves, 24, and Craig Hollinrake, 25, guilty of conspiring with Seddon to murder Dillon's stepfather, John Bates. All three convicted men are from Bolton. Brian Roper, 22, also of Bolton, was acquitted of the conspiracy.

During five weeks of evidence, the court was told how Dillon was shot by a gunman disguised in a motorcycle crash helmet. The boy had been caught in the firing line of a Bolton drug feud. The intended target was Mr Bates, 28, a small-time dealer suspected by his rivals of undercutting Seddon, who had been lying



Guilty men: David Hargreaves, left, and Paul Seddon

in wait, pulled a hand gun from his jacket and fired. He then fled, discarding the belt and abandoning his getaway car. He left Mr Bates wounded and holding his stepson, who had been killed instantly by a bullet to the head.

Mr Justice Forbes said that the crime, on August 6 last year, had "sent shockwaves through the country". He told the court: "On a summer's afternoon a child was shot in broad daylight in a residential area of Bolton."

"Ordinary citizens were brought in immediate contact

with horrifying violence and tragic death. Earlier the judge said that it might never be known who had hired Seddon. But he told him: "I have no doubt that your attack was carried out in order to further the interests of those who were engaged in dealing illegal drugs in Bolton."

"It was at their behest. You were their hired killer. You brought sudden violence and terror to the residential streets of Bolton on that warm summer's afternoon. You also brought death, but not to your intended victim — you only

wounded him. You brought death to an innocent little boy who had the misfortune of holding hands with your target at the time you opened fire."

"So it was, you shot and murdered Dillon Hull, who was only 5½ years old. Those two sentences express more eloquently than any other words I could use for the terrible nature of your crimes. You have never shown the slightest remorse and apparently you feel no shame at what you have done."

He told Seddon that he would recommend that he serve at least 25 years. As he was led away Seddon, who has previous convictions for drug offences, shouted: "I didn't pull the trigger. It wasn't me..."

Hargreaves, who was described by the judge as the main conspirator, was sentenced to 18 years. Hollinrake, said by the judge to have shown some distress at the child's death, was given 16 years. As he was led away, he pointed at the judge and bellowed: "You are full of shit. I'll see you in the Royal Courts of Justice."



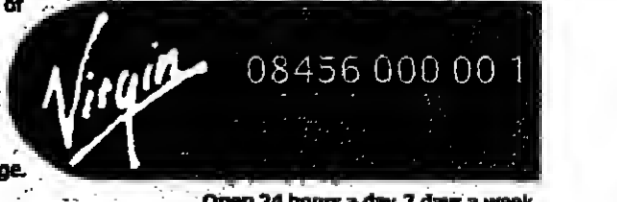
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# Child born into a deadly world

By Russell Jenkins

DILLON Hull was born into a world where heroin is the drug of choice and people are willing to kill for it. His stepfather, John Bates, was a small-time dealer and his mother Jane Hull, an addict. They lived in a rundown inner-city area with a high number of unemployed heroin users.

On the day that he died, Dillon had been promised tea at McDonald's. He was walking hand-in-hand with his stepfather when Paul Seddon opened fire, killing Dillon instantly. Dealers had wanted Bates dead because he was undercutting them and had refused their offers to join them.

Dillon's death sparked an inquest among social services in Blackburn and Bolton. The



Dillon Hull was looking forward to McDonald's

methadone. She told the court that a bullet had smashed through their front room earlier on the day Dillon had died. She said that she had tried to ring the police but had been stopped by Bates.

Jane Hull left school at 16 with a single GCSE. She moved in with her grandmother in Blackburn and worked as a sewing machinist. She was introduced to drugs at raves, then progressed to heroin. Dillon's father did not stay with her long enough to fill in the space for his name on the boy's birth certificate.

Shortly after Dillon was born, she met Bates and they moved into a house in Blackburn together. His dealing supported her addiction. Three weeks before Dillon's death, she gave birth to another

son, Codie. He was born addicted to heroin.

Her father, Robert, said: "She started losing weight at an incredible rate and became very moody and irritable. It became obvious she was taking heroin. I think the social services went around after Jane became a registered addict, but her home was always spotless and Dillon clean and tidy, so they probably saw nothing wrong."

The couple went to court in March 1995 after police raided their home for drugs. Bates was given 21 months' jail for dealing and Hull was put on probation for two years.

"I told her again she had to get her life in order or Dillon would suffer," Mr Hull said. "If only she had listened, Dillon would be here today."



# Parkinson drug banned after liver deaths

A DRUG for treating Parkinson's disease has been withdrawn after three patients died of liver disease.

The European Commission requested yesterday that members suspend the use of Tasmar, made by Roche. It has not been withdrawn in the United States, where the Food and Drug Administration takes the view that, in a condition as serious as Parkinson's, some side-effects are a tolerable price to pay for the drug's benefits.

The decisions follow cases of "rare and unexpected adverse events", including three deaths from a sudden and severe form of hepatitis, all linked to use of the drug. The dead patients were from Switzerland and North America.

About 5,000 of Britain's 120,000 Parkinson's sufferers have been using Tasmar, which is prescribed because it enhances the effect of other medicines. The company was aware that liver damage was one side-effect of Tasmar, and recommended that liver function should be monitored for the first six months of use.

Roche and the Parkinson's Disease Society yesterday advised users to consult their doctors, not simply to stop taking

**Nigel Hawkes reports on a scare that has divided opinion in EU and America**

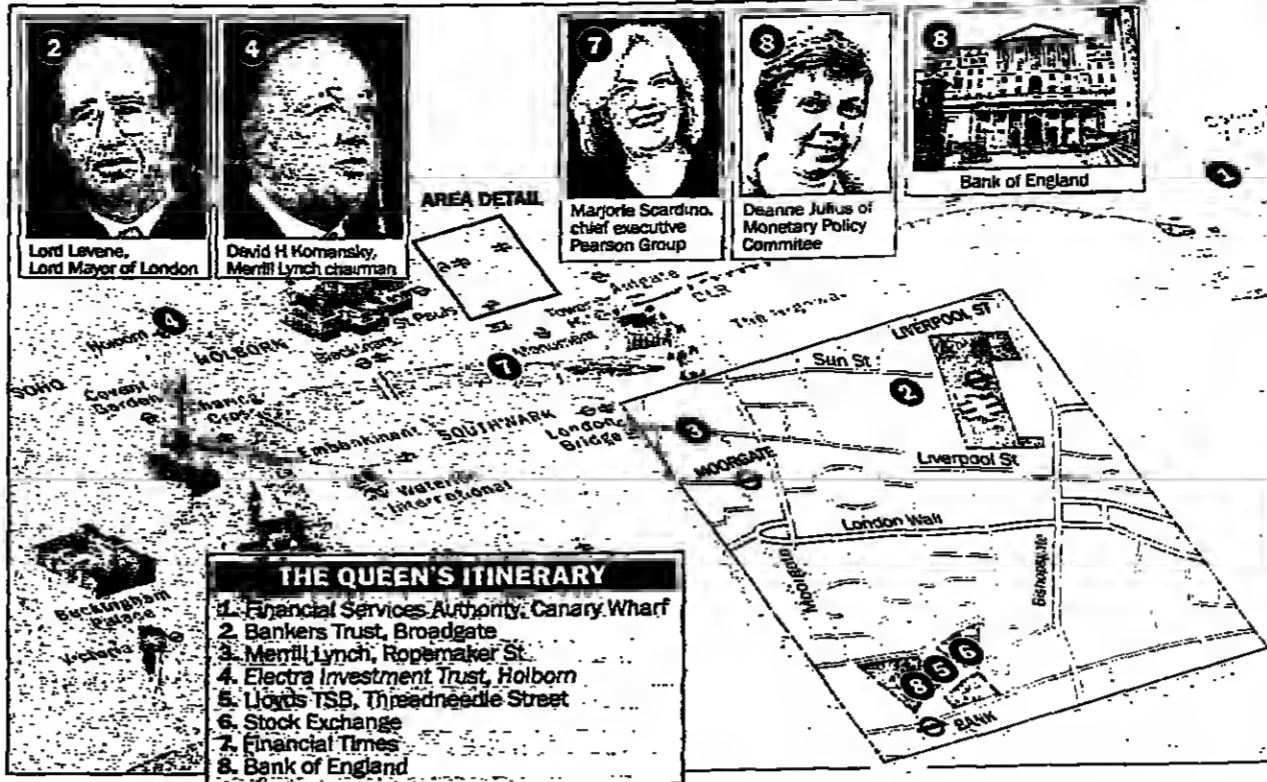
about the normal incidence of the disease? In this case it appears to be more than we would have expected so we have to assume that Tasmar is actually associated with hepatitis, and we have to take action.

"The Roche position was that relabelling was all that was necessary, but the European Union decided to suspend the licence."

There is hot competition among drug companies to produce effective treatments for Parkinson's, a progressive disease which causes shaking, muscle stiffness, and slowness of movement. It is caused by the shortage of dopamine, a chemical messenger, in the part of the brain which controls movement.

The condition can be treated with levodopa drugs which raise the levels of dopamine, but the effectiveness of these drugs wears off in time. Sometimes their effectiveness can be restored by prescribing drugs which block the enzyme which breaks down levodopa. Tasmar was the first such drug to be licensed in Britain.

A Tasmar helpline staffed by health professionals, on 0800 328 3202, has been set up for anyone concerned about the drug.



# Queen is in the counting house

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Queen will pay tribute today to the City of London's international importance. Her extended visit, with the Duke of Edinburgh, is an early example of the targeted approach that Buckingham Palace has been endeavouring to bring to the Queen's appointments.

She will start by opening the new building of the Financial Services Authority at Canary Wharf, meeting its staff, industry practitioners and those involved in building the office. Then she will go to the City proper, to be greeted by the Lord Mayor, Lord Levene of Portsoken, at Bankers

Trust, behind Liverpool Street station. At the offices of Merrill Lynch, the Queen will meet staff working in foreign exchange, gilts and UK mergers and acquisitions. She will tour the debt trading floor and inspect the information technology centre for the company's European operations.

Next she will call into the boardroom of Electra Investment Trust at Kingsway, to meet members of companies that make flooring (Amico) and shoes (Dolcis), and grow flowers and bulbs (Winchester Growers), as examples of enterprises into which the City puts its money.

The Duke of Edinburgh will be at

Lloyds TSB in Threadneedle Street, meeting those involved in personal banking, insurance, business banking, the Lloyds TSB Charitable Foundation and education. After that he will visit the Stock Exchange to meet staff and to view markets on computer screens.

The couple will reunite for lunch with the City's "house journal", the *Financial Times*. Finally, the Queen and the Duke will visit the Bank of England and meet the Governor, Eddie George, and members of the Monetary Policy Committee. An evening reception at the Palace will be attended by 600 staff from a cross-section of City institutions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Boy dies after rail game

A schoolboy has died after being blown off a railway bridge by a 25,000-volt electric shock and run over by a train.

The unnamed 14-year-old and a friend had been playing in Birmingham on Monday afternoon when the accident happened. Police said that he had been dangling a wire cable over the track in Nechells and it apparently touched a power cable.

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The force of the voltage blew the boy off the bridge on to the tracks. Moments later he was hit by the train." The child was taken to Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, suffering from multiple injuries and died yesterday.

## Lorry fire death

One person died and several others were injured when a lorry crashed into a petrol station in thick fog and caught fire. Staff at the Fina station on the A14 at Lolworth, Cambridgeshire, avoided an explosion by isolating fuel supplies.

## Red Arrow crash

A Red Arrows pilot ejected safely from his Hawk jet before it crashed on the runway at RAF Cranwell in Lincolnshire during a training exercise. He was trying to land the aircraft, which was destroyed. An inquiry has been started.

## Damages denied

The footballer Kieran Brady has lost a £2 million damages claim against his club, Sunderland. The Court of Appeal ruled that the club doctor could not have been expected to diagnose the rare vascular condition that ended his career.

## Envoy's bomb

Bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on a wartime shell found in an ambassador's garden near London Zoo. Fasa Saleh al-Gurg, of the United Arab Emirates, his wife and staff were moved to safety.

## Lowry sold

A painting by L. S. Lowry that had hung for 20 years in the school hall at Princess Helena College in Hitchin, Hertfordshire, sold for £298,500 at Phillips in London. The 1935 work, *May Day*, showed of children around a maypole.

## Fast-lane mouse

The Evans Halshaw Porsche dealership in Little Aston, Staffordshire, found that a hole the size of a television screen in the cover of a convertible Porsche had been caused not by vandals, but by a mouse that had subsequently died.

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# PC WORLD

## THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

## An air of victory on secret bypass

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN AIR of diesel-free contentment prevailed yesterday in Newbury as the town woke up to the knowledge that its £100 million bypass had been opened unannounced during the night.

Unlike its construction, the opening passed without the demonstrators who had turned the project into the biggest road protest in Britain. A police car carrying Tony Scutt, project director for the construction company Costain, led the way on to the dual-carriageway at 1.25am. It was swiftly followed by several heavy goods vehicles.

Within hours, workmen were honouring a council pledge to start pedestrianising the town centre. Ann Boardman, who lives on the through route which used to see up to 400 lorries an hour, said the air already smelt sweeter.

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# Sailor dies after four-day battle against storms

## British couple's dream voyage ended as their damaged yacht ran aground in New Zealand, reports Tim Jones

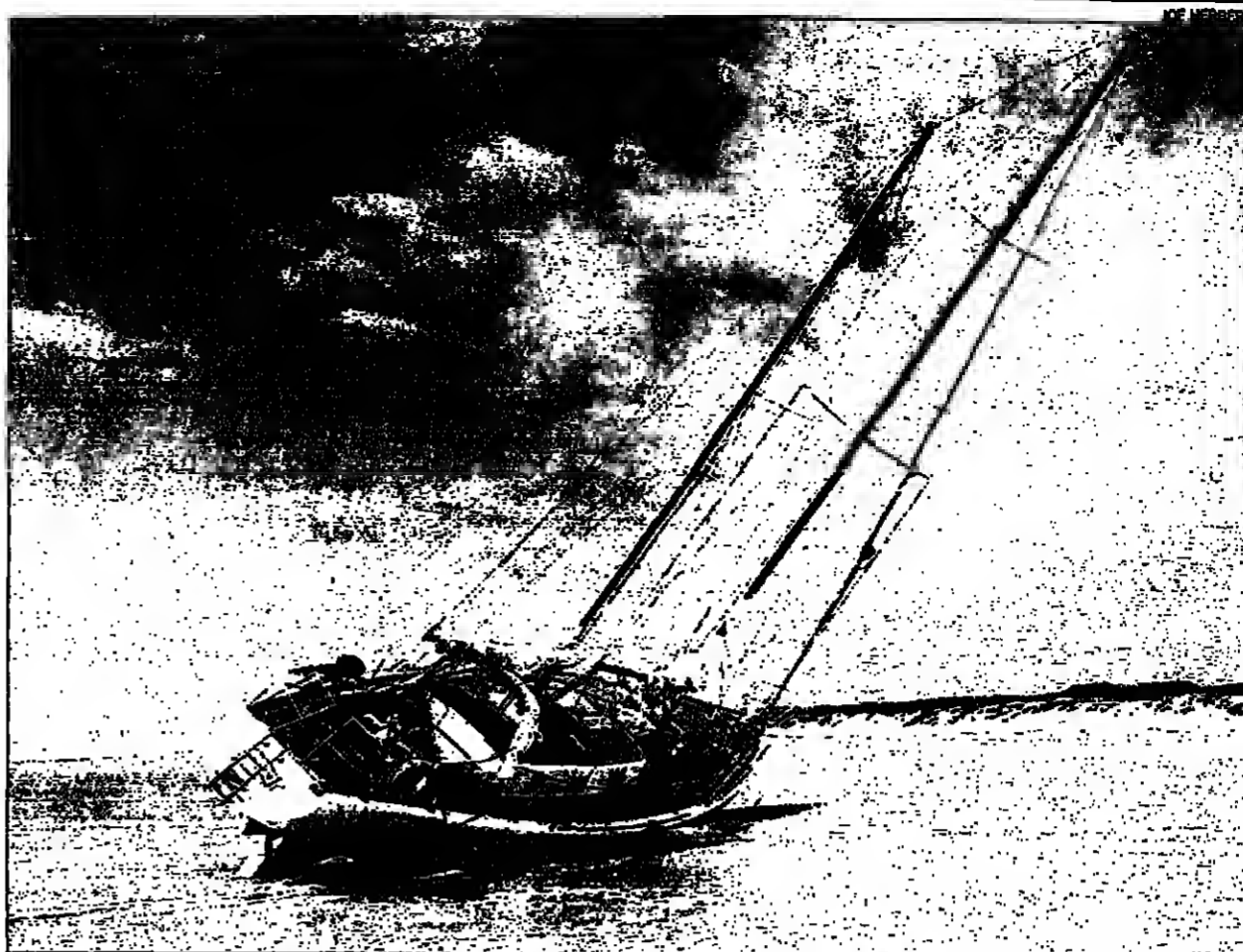
A BRITISH woman has been swept to her death off a remote stretch of the northern coast of New Zealand after she and her husband lost a four-day battle to steer their damaged 52ft yacht through stormy seas to safety.

The body of Anita Mary Dean, 52, from Hull, who suffered from multiple sclerosis, was found at Great Exhibition Bay, near the northern tip of New Zealand. Her husband, Roger, 53, was found alive, clinging to the wreckage of the yacht, which was washed up

on a beach near Everetts Creek at about 5pm on Monday, British time.

The couple, who had spent 3½ years sailing around the world, had been en route from Fiji to New Zealand last week when gale-force winds damaged the steering mechanism of their 18-tonne yacht, *Woody Goose*.

Senior Constable Shane Godinet, of Houhora Police, said that the couple had been exhausted after fighting the storm and had set a drag anchor to slow the vessel down



The *Woody Goose* lies stranded in Great Exhibition Bay. Mrs Dean fell overboard despite her safety harness



Anita and Roger Dean: sailed the world for three years

about five miles off the coast so that they could rest. When they awoke, however, winds were gusting at up to 40mph and they were drifting dangerously close to the shore. They tried and failed to start their vessel's engine, then to raise its main sail.

"The Deans slept for more than they had anticipated and woke to find that they were too close to the shore," he said. "The vessel's diesel engine failed to start and the couple fired two red distress flares at 5am, which were spotted by residents on the shore."

Coastguards, guided by two aircraft, tried to rescue the pair but were driven back by the conditions.

"An hour later, the yacht was found beached and shortly after, the body of Mrs Dean was recovered," Constable Godinet said.

He said that Mr Dean had told him that he had last seen his wife on the deck wearing a safety harness, but that moments later, when he looked again, she had gone and the harness was empty.

Sergeant Rogan Parker

said: "At the moment we don't know if the boat overturned or the woman fell overboard. We have been told that the woman was wearing a safety line during the emergency, but that somehow she became separated from it."

Constable Godinet said that Maori leaders in the area had placed a *tapu* on Great Exhibition Bay, marking the site as a sacred area out of respect for Mrs Dean.

Her body was taken to a

mortuary at Kaitiāia, where a post-mortem examination is to be carried out.

The couple had left Britain more than three years ago, and were believed to have lived in New Zealand for some years before returning to Hull.

A local fisherman, Bill Hopkins, said that sea conditions in the area at the time of the accident were extremely poor. Her Crane, a harbourmaster, said that the coast had been buffeted by strong winds for

several days, and that conditions would have been terrifying aboard a yacht the size of *Woody Goose*.

Last night Bert Constable, one of the couple's neighbours in Hull, said: "They were a lovely couple. It had always been Roger's dream to go cruising around the world."

Another Eric Ormrod, said: "I am very sorry. This has come as a shock. Their son, Mark, told us that they had run aground on Fiji not long

ago and they had been pulled off. He was going to show us some video footage taken of them this weekend."

It is believed that the Deans were members of the Humber Yacht Club. The *Woody Goose*, which was built in France in 1974, was powered by sail and a single screw. It had one deck and two masts.

The Registry of Pleasure Yachts in Gibraltar said that the vessel was listed as being owned by the couple.

# Thirteen easy steps to surgery on the high seas

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

A WEEK ago Victor Yazykov was alone on a yacht in the South Atlantic with a life-threatening abscess on his elbow. Yesterday he was recovering in the Russian consulate in Cape Town, thanks to a solar-powered modem and a helpful doctor in suburban Boston.

Without anaesthetic — but after a 13-step procedure e-mailed to him in what remained of the daylight on which his computer link depended — the solo yachtsman used a scalpel to cut open and empty the abscess.

At the other end of the computer link was Daniel Carlin, on call from Boston for the Around Alone yacht race. He received the Russian's first message last Tuesday. "My right elbow does not look good," it went. "Some yellow spot in the middle of red and it feels like dead." The doctor requested further details. "All skin is glossy and shiny white," Yazykov replied.

Dr Carlin urgently typed out the 13 steps. "He had to set up a small operating theatre on his boat," he said yesterday. "I told him it would hurt a lot and, if it didn't, he wasn't doing it right. Had the abscess ruptured it would have set up a terrible infection."

Yazykov's final task was to stop the bleeding. He had failed to tell the doctor he had been taking aspirin, which prevented his blood clotting. By Thursday he wrote: "Have been sitting on the bloody cabin floor almost completely naked... watching as my life drop by drop is leaving me."

Contacted by telephone yesterday, Yazykov, 50, a former commando in the Russian Army, told *The Times*: "I can laugh now, but for half an hour it was very, very bad. Death was my real concern."

With Dr Carlin's advice the bleeding eventually stopped. Yazykov's last message to Boston read: "The arm getting better. Very grateful to doctor." Yazykov had built his own boat and sailed it 7,500 miles from Sochi, on the Black Sea, to South Carolina for the start of the race.

# Hunt for Nazi loot in Britain

By DALYA ALBERGE

THE country's museums were asked yesterday to study the provenance of every object in their collections to ensure that there was nothing that could have been looted from victims of the Nazis.

Lord Janner of Braunstone, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said that any work of art acquired after 1945 that was found to have been stolen by the Nazis should be returned to the original owners or their family, if no one could be traced, it should be sold for the benefit of organisations that care for survivors.

He expressed dismay that so many victims had failed to regain their property — while the family of Himmler, head of the Gestapo and the SS, had apparently been able to hold on to stolen treasures — "on

the grounds that he wasn't a convicted war criminal". Himmler killed himself in captivity before he could be put on trial.

The trust's study, *Nazi Looted Art: Britain and Post-War Restitution*, published yesterday, draws on previously unseen files from the Public Record Office and points out that art plundered by the Third Reich was regarded by the Allies as the victors' legitimate war booty rather than the property of the victims from whom it had originally been seized.

In some cases, paintings ended up on the walls of Foreign Office buildings in London and the offices of the British post-war military government in Germany. Lord Janner called for an audit of the Armed Forces' collections.

The Allies agreed that all looted art was to be returned to the government of the

country from which it had originated. It was then up to individual states whether they then returned it to private owners. In some cases, the rules were broken for influential figures, but ordinary individuals got no help, say the authors, Stephen Ward and Ian Locke.

Documents that they uncovered show that Himmler's family appears to have been allowed to keep some of the collection he accumulated while in charge of the Third Reich's art looting. An inventory of works found in the Wewelsburg concentration camp includes 13 paintings, seven tapestries, 22 carpets and 11 gilt frames. In 1949 an official in the British zone of Germany ruled: "If any of the property cannot be identified as having been forcibly taken away from its former owner, it is not, prima facie, restitutable."

# 'The Spiral' seeks £75m

By DALYA ALBERGE ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DAY after the Victoria and Albert Museum's controversial and futuristic extension was approved, the museum's staff are facing the next big hurdle — finding £75 million to make it possible.

Gwyn Miles, the V&A's head of major projects, insisted that the museum was completely confident of being able to inspire sponsors. While acknowledging that the same few people were being "tapped by everyone under the sun", there were some donors who "may not have given

to other things". The museum is also likely to travel abroad in search of funds.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's planning and conservation committee voted on Monday night in favour of the design, which has been dismissed by some as "a spiral of crumpled boxes". A number of local residents have also decided it.

Ms Miles said, however, that a MORI poll of residents suggested that eight out of ten favoured it and would want to visit it once it opens, which is expected to be in 2004.

The V&A intends to position the controversial extension, known as *The Spiral*, between its existing Victorian galleries in South Kensington. It was designed by the American architect Daniel Libeskind as part of a project to provide more gallery space. The new building, which was rejected for National Lottery funding by the Millennium Commission, has 12,000 square metres of floor space on 12 floors, four of which are underground. The extension includes an underground auditorium and cinema.

The museum is a Grade I building and the work has to be done to ensure that the rest of the structure is safeguarded.

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Y NOVEMBER 18 1998

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy dies after rail game

A schoolboy has died after he was blown off a railway bridge by a 25,000-volt electric shock and run over by a train.

The unnamed 14-year-old and a friend had been playing in Birmingham on Monday afternoon when the accident happened. Police said that he had been dangling a wire to follow the track in North and it apparently touched a power cable.

A British Transport Police spokesman said: "The force of the voltage blew the boy's head on to the line. Moments later he was hit by the train. The child was taken to Birmingham Children's Hospital, where he died yesterday."

Lorry fire death

The driver died and the others were injured when a lorry crashed into a power line in a truck, lorry and car fire last night in the town of Letchworth, Hertfordshire, according to police.

Red Arrow crash

A Red Arrow aircraft crashed into the sea off the coast of Cornwall yesterday, according to a spokesman for the airline.

Damages dealt

The court dealt with the damages claim in the case of the lorry crash.

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# Robertson cuts swath through the TA

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

MANY of Britain's best-known regiments, such as the Green Howards, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, will be cut back in the restructured and reduced Territorial Army announced by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, yesterday.

The changes will more than halve the number of infantry battalions and force TA regiments into new-style amalgamated units.

After widespread criticism of Mr Robertson's proposal to cut the TA from its establishment figure of 59,000 to 40,000, as part of the Strategic Defence Review, he announced that he was restoring 1,200 to the manpower level.

No decision has been made on names for the 15 TA infantry regiments that will be created out of 33 battalions. That will be the responsibility of the Regular Army's Director of In-

fantry, Mr Robertson promised that no cap badges would be lost, even though many battalions would be only company size — about 100 men.

He said that the new total of 41,200 did not represent as big a cut as had been suggested because the current strength of the TA was only 54,000. This meant the cut was only 13,000, "a modest reduction".

"We lose about that figure each year through natural wastage," Mr Robertson said at the Ministry of Defence. The cuts would save £70 million a year from the TA budget of £350 million.

He predicted that critics of his decision to cut the Territorials would be won round by his promise to convert them from their traditional image of "weekend warriors" to "a new, more heavyweight role".

Apart from the infantry battalions, the seven TA yeomanry regiments attached to the Royal Armoured Corps are to



be cut to four. But for the first time they will be given tanks to train on, including the Challenger 2. The Royal Artillery TA regiments, which are to remain at seven, will be allowed for the first time to fire the Army's new AS90 gun.

Instead of training to defend the United Kingdom from a Soviet invasion — its role in the Cold War — the TA would work with the regulars as "a wholly integrated force" in many types of operations.

He even promised that he would be prepared to call up the TA "in formed units if need be", rather than as attachments to regular units, but

only in situations "that fall short of a direct threat to the UK, such as the Gulf War".

The minor concession on overall manpower came after strong representations to Mr Robertson by some of his Cabinet colleagues, in particular Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary. He was worried that a thinning of the TA in outlying areas of Scotland would be damaging if it were needed for civil emergencies.

In a leaked letter to Mr Robertson, he said the TA might be needed to help to run public services affected by computer shutdowns in 2000 — the so-called millennium bug. Mr

Robertson said he had added the 1,200 for "operational, not political reasons". The extra personnel would be paid for within the overall army budget. He would not have to ask the Treasury for more money.

Under his plans, announced in the Commons, 87 drill centres will be sold to raise £40 million. The closed centres would be spread as evenly as possible across the country.

Some of the biggest changes are: the two TA battalions of The Parachute Regiment, 4 Para and 10 Para, to be reduced to one battalion, consisting of three companies — about 360 men; the two battal-

ions of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment also to be cut to one battalion of three companies. Other TA regiments will lose one company, including the Staffordshire Regiment, the Royal Gloucestershire, the Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment.

The Royal Regiment of Wales and the Royal Welch Fusiliers are to be combined to form a Welsh regiment. The TA's two SAS regiments are unaffected by the cuts.

Mr Robertson, fully supported yesterday by General Sir Roger Wheeler, the Chief of the General Staff, promised

that saleable drill centres used by the Army Cadets would stay open until other arrangements could be made. He announced an extra £12 million for the cadets and said they would not face any cuts.

He said that TA members facing redundancy would have new opportunities to serve in the regular forces or to join the volunteer reserves of the two other services — the Royal Naval Reserve, which is to increase from 3,300 to 3,850, and the Reserve Air Force, which will rise from 2,650 to 2,920.

Leading article, page 19

# Arnhem Paras could hold out no more

Michael Horsnell on a sad day for proud unit

THE 10th Battalion The Parachute Regiment, whose proud history stems back to the Second World War battle over the bridge at Arnhem, will cease to exist as a battalion in London.

"It's like having the family split up," said its spokesman, Major Robert Partridge. "There's a great sadness among those who have trained together. But the guys will probably be found jobs. No one turns away such well-trained airborne troops as the Paras."

The cuts announced yesterday will mean that the combined number of 10 Para and 4 Para will be reduced from 650 to 325.

The battalion's finest hour came

when, surrounded and vastly outnumbered by German SS Panzer troops, it made an heroic stand at Oosterbeek, three miles west of the main bridge at Arnhem. For four days, without resupply or reinforcement, 60 men and two officers — all that remained of the battalion — held out against staggering odds before withdrawing across the lower Rhine.

Of the 800 men who dropped into The Netherlands, only 35 answered the roll call on the south bank eight days later. Colonel Lionel Queripel

was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallant action at Oosterbeek.

The battalion was reformed in 1947 as the 10th (City of London) Parachute Battalion TA. The unit's soldiers take great pride in their nickname, London's Paras.

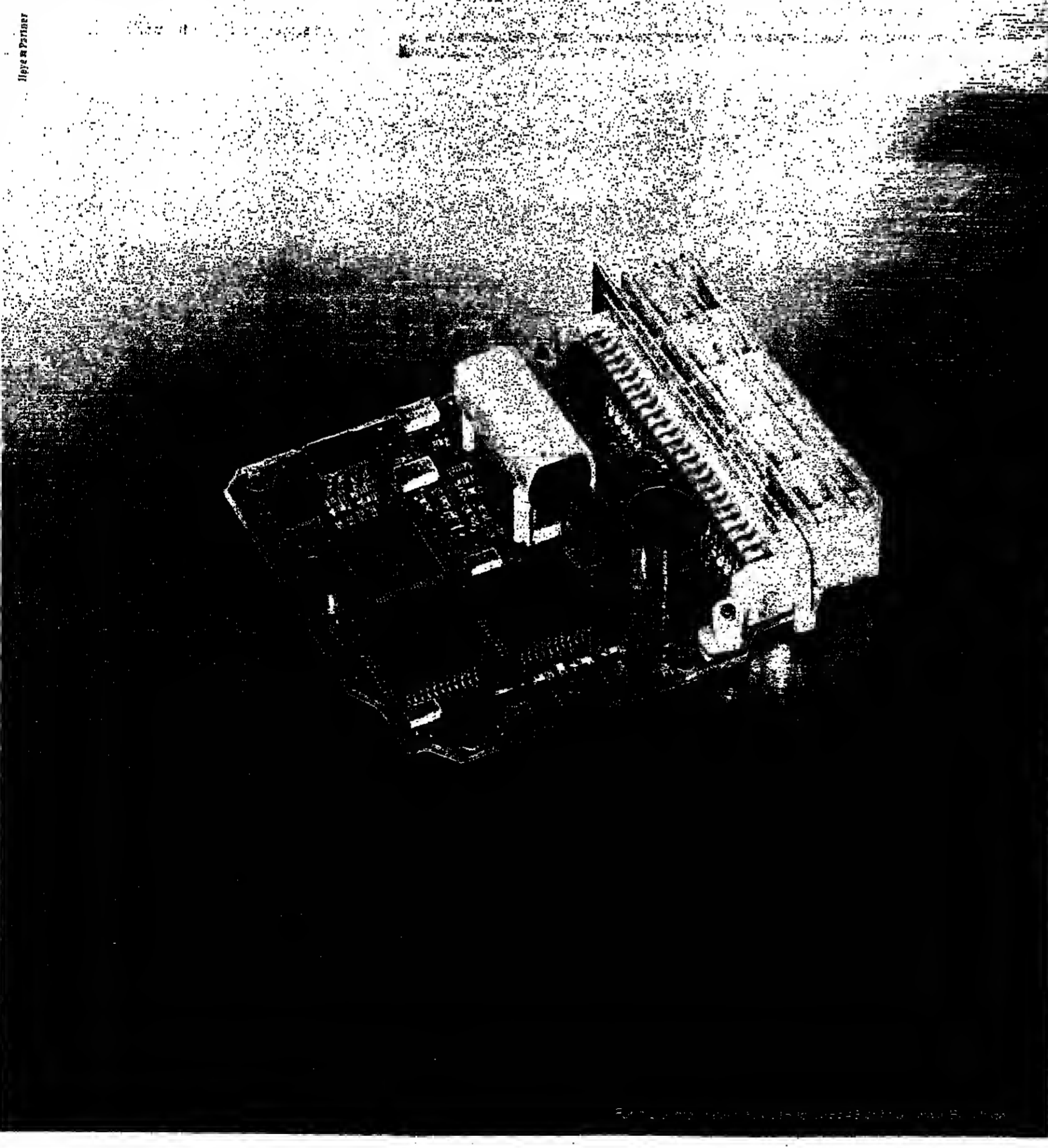
Each September the battalion returns to Arnhem and the troops parachute onto Ginkel Heath, the wartime drop zone, where they mount a guard at the town's annual memorial service to the British and Polish dead.

Today the battalion provides para-

chute-trained soldiers to reinforce regular parachute battalions in 5 Airborne Brigade. Although a Territorial Army unit, it has many soldiers who wear Northern Ireland, Bosnia and UN medals, having served six-month attachments to regular army battalions.

In 1996 10 Para provided more than 100 soldiers to support 5 Airborne Brigade on Exercise Purple Star in the United States.

To ensure readiness, the battalion regularly conducts training exercises in parachute assault and airfield seizure procedures in addition to conventional infantry training.



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Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off. Visible text includes "Silver turn for com", "I'm hooked. cyber gran", and "As I hurtled through space, thought kept my mind - even of this capsule was supplied the lowest bid".

# Silver surfers turn off TV for computer

By Alan Copps

BRITONS are increasingly turning off the television and turning to the home computer, which can now be found in one in four households.

Among the keenest are computer users over 60m, who have earned the nickname "silver surfers" by spending ten hours a week at the keyboard, three hours longer than the average. They are likely to spend more time than younger relatives talking about computers.

New surveys show that more than a million adults have used the Internet for the first time in the past six months, bringing the total to 7 million or 15 per cent of the adult population. There are a further million users aged 14 to 17, including users at work and school. Companies offering mail-order sales on the World Wide Web are hoping for the first electronic Christmas shopping spree.

Three new surveys taken together provide a full picture of computer use and its effect on television habits. Just over half the users said that their favourite time to sit down at the home PC was between 6pm and 8pm, just when *Coronation Street* and *EastEnders* are on.

The first survey, the Microsoft Computer Age Report, is

## ONLINE OVER-60s

What the silver surfers do on their computers	
Word processing	88
Personal finance/accounts	36
Play games	34
Surf the Net	25
Use spreadsheets	23
Use databases	23
Reference	20
E-mail	18
Work	2
Study	2

Sources: Microsoft Computer Age Report

younger users on handling their personal finances and home accounts on the PC. The proportion who play computer games — about a third — is the same as among mothers in PC-owning households.

More than a quarter of households said that help with children's homework was a major use, more popular among girls (42 per cent) than boys (29 per cent). Children in Newcastle and Birmingham are twice as likely to do homework at the keyboard as those in London or Glasgow. Only one in ten university students used a PC for study, but 78 per cent said they played computer games.

Microsoft also identified the rise of the multiple computer household. Of those owning PCs, 20 per cent had two and 8 per cent at least three.

Online shopping, *Interface*, page 3



Sir Geoff yesterday: "The decoration will take pride of place with my World Cup medal"

# Hats off to hero of 1966 as Hurst is knighted

GEOFF HURST was knighted by the Queen yesterday and said that the ceremony was more demanding than scoring his hat-trick in England's 4-2 World Cup win over West Germany in 1966.

Sir Geoff, 56, said outside Buckingham Palace: "I didn't expect to be nervous today, but when the day came I was, whereas 32 years ago, playing at Wembley came like second nature to me."

Sir Geoff, who was accompanied by his wife, Judith, and two of his daughters, Claire, 33, and Charlotte, 21, is the only footballer to have scored a hat-trick in a World Cup final. "It was almost like full circle because it was the Queen who presented the England team with the trophy at Wembley in 1966," he said.

Sir Geoff, who is helping to set up the FA Premier League Hall of Fame, added: "The knighthood decoration will take pride of place beside my World Cup medal." He received his knighthood for services to football.

Barry Norman, the television presenter, was awarded

the insignia of the CBE for services to broadcasting and the film industry.

Mr Norman, 65, who was accompanied by his wife, Diana, and daughters Emma and Samantha recently left the BBC after 26 years to become film critic for Sky Television. He said: "The Queen asked me how long I had been doing my job and I told her it was a very long time. I wanted to ask her if she ever watched my show, but I didn't get a chance."



A CBE award for Barry Norman: and why not?

# I'm hooked, says 'cyber granny'

By Adrian Lee

MASTERING the language of computing at the age of 84 was a daunting task, confessed Lady Wright, widow of Sir Roland Wright, a former chairman of ICI.

She was convinced that grappling with a mouse was a waste of time. Less than three months later she is sending e-mails to her children and grandchildren, reading 20th-century history from a CD-Rom and is about to link up with a friend in Australia.

"I honestly thought I would never get the hang of it," she said. "But now I am hooked and find it fascinating." Lady Wright, who lives in Eastbourne, tries to limit herself to two hours a day, but admits: "I have burnt my supper."

Eventually, she believes she will use the computer to write all her letters. "It was like learning Greek at first — I was hopeless — but my son wrote down all the instructions for me. Now I am always looking

to see if I have received new e-mail. It might just be a few lines, but you never know when it will arrive. I think everyone should have a go."

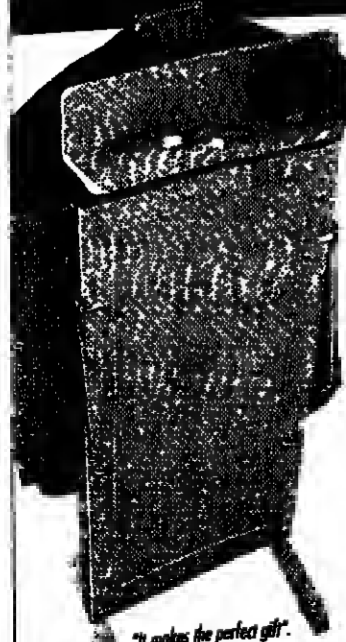
Mrs Wright's son, John, who is bursar of Trelvelan College, Durham, said: "My 14-year-old son thinks having a cyber granny is pretty cool." The college hosts introductory courses for the elderly. "Using the Internet is a completely different environment to pen and ink and we have a lot of initial resistance," Mr Wright said. "Once overcome, it means the elderly can communicate with people all over the world."

The growing number of "silver surfers" has led to the creation of the Zimmer Frame Computer Club (ZFC), which now has 3,000 members, mostly over 50. Darny Kilgariff, 69, from Lincoln, its co-founder, said: "The joy of e-mail is that you don't have to write a long letter — a few paragraphs is enough to keep in touch."

## QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

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John Glenn

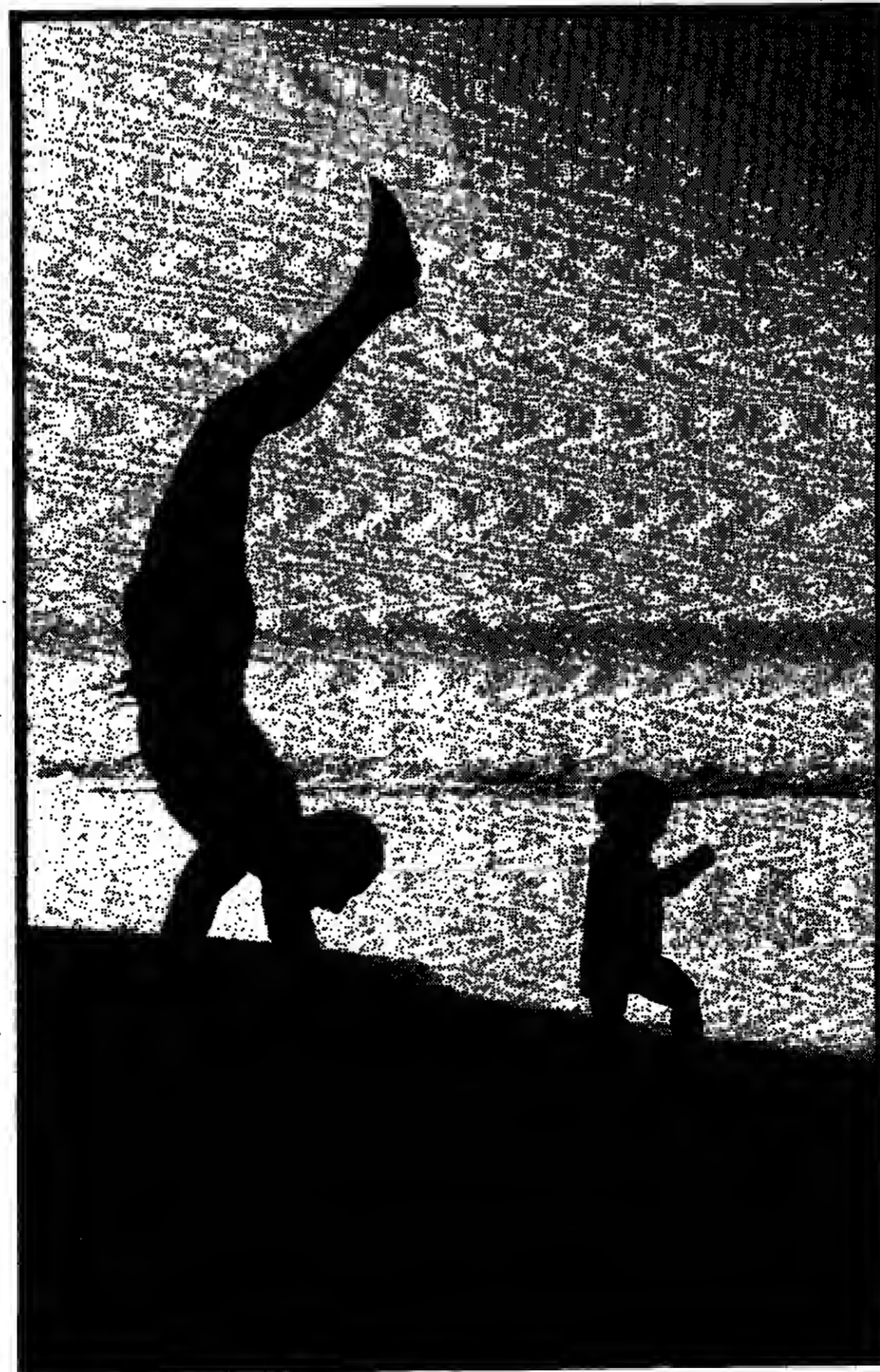


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## TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

# Heads in clash with minister on drugs

Susie Steiner reports on reactions to Morris's support for leniency

HEAD teachers yesterday criticised the Government's call for leniency over pupils caught with drugs as Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, defended her advice not to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach.

Ms Morris, who on Monday told the Girls' Schools Association that possession of drugs should not automatically lead to exclusion, caused disquiet among some heads who felt that she had created a conflicting message for pupils.

King Edward VI Camp Hill boys' school in Birmingham, one of the country's top grant-maintained grammars, has had two or three drug-related incidents with expulsions in the past ten years. Mervyn Brooker, the headteacher, said: "At this school there is a very hard line. My governors expect a hard line and the students accept that."

"I am concerned about what Estelle Morris is saying. Heads need discretion on particular circumstances, but I certainly wouldn't want the Government to tie my hands and say, 'You can't exclude.' We take the view that, by and large, students know what they are doing and have to accept the consequences."

Harrow School operates a zero-tolerance policy and several drug incidents in the past three years have resulted in expulsion. Nicholas Bonford, the Head Master, said: "Our standard policy is that, if any boy is found to be in possession of unauthorised drugs or to have used them during term time, he must expect to be required to leave." Ms Morris



Morris: remarks caused disquiet among heads

was criticised by David Willetts, the Shadow Education Secretary, for "undercutting the position" of head teachers.

Downing Street defended Ms Morris's remarks. The Prime Minister's spokesman said: "She was saying that the Government has a very tough approach to drugs, not just in schools but at all levels of society, but was making the obvious point that head teachers have to be allowed some flexibility and that she would support them over the decisions they have to take."

Although few schools practise zero tolerance, they are universally strict on drug-dealing. Heads fiercely maintain the right to set their own anti-drugs policies. St Bede's College, a Roman Catholic independent in Manchester, has had two fifth-form boys expelled and 18 suspended for drugs in three years. John Byrne, the Headmaster, said: "The boys were expelled because they brought drugs into the school and sold them."

"At the same time, we gave a 24-hour amnesty for people who had been tempted to purchase or try out cannabis and those people were suspended but not expelled. I reserve the right to expel pupils for drugs, but I wouldn't wish to tie myself down to do it every time."

Gordonstoun School said that not every drugs incident resulted in expulsion. "There have been temporary suspensions," said Richard Oliver, its development director.

"We would regard each offence individually. Anyone dealing in hard drugs would almost certainly be asked to leave."

Ramsgate School, in Kent, which is fighting its way up from the bottom of the GCSE league tables, has had one drugs incident in the past three years but did not expel. Brian Lippitt, the Headmaster, said: "We operate a policy which is sympathetic to what Estelle Morris is doing. If we were to find a child with a small amount of cannabis and there is no evidence that the child has been selling or encouraging other youngsters to use, then the child would be handed to the youth services for help and advice. He may well have a short-term exclusion but not a permanent one."



Searching for the right chemistry: the posters, from left, of Kerry Lomas, an airline pilot; Jo da Silva, a civil engineer; and Farzana Patel, a forensic scientist

## Poster women complain of science fiction

WOMEN scientists were asked to dress up in crop-tops, tight dresses and trainers to pose for a government campaign to make science appeal to teenage girls (Victoria Fletcher writes).

The six women, who were chosen as role models because they had managed to succeed in their male-dominated fields, were asked to put on skimpy clothes they did not normally wear. The posters, emblazoned with such

streetwise slogans as "Making H2O flow... I'm into it" and "Party on!" are part of a campaign launched yesterday by Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to make the "balding boffin" image of a science career more trendy.

On seeing the poster of herself yesterday, Farzana Patel, 26, an assistant forensic scientist, said she had been made to look half her age. She was asked by a

stylist to put on a tight, camouflage-print top with combat trousers and trainers, a look she would never normally choose: "I usually wear casual clothes — blouses and T-shirts — to work."

However, she said that, if the image would make girls stop and read the posters, she did not mind that they were not a true representation of herself or her career. "We have to try and look human, not like people on white

lab coats who have no social lives." Other women featured in the posters include an airline pilot in a tight pink dress and an electrical engineer with a tracksuit, hooded top and Sparty Spice hairstyle.

At present, girls outperform boys at science GCSE, but only a small proportion continue science in the sixth form. Last year, only 21 per cent of A-level physics pupils were female.

## Police take a more feminine blue line

BY STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

NEW police officers are increasingly likely to be female, have a degree and join after trying other jobs, MPs were told yesterday. The average age of new officers is 26.

MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee, which is studying police training and recruitment, were told that women accounted for 27 per cent of the 7,500 new constables taken on each year by the 43 forces in England and Wales. But many still fail to complete their careers, often leaving to start families.

Only 16 per cent of the total police manpower of 127,000 officers are women. Five years ago the figure was 13 per cent.

Forces are making more use of job sharing, part-time working and career breaks. But the Association of Chief Police Officers forecast that it would take some years for the increase in women recruits to show in the staffing profile.

The MPs were also told that between 20 and 30 per cent of new recruits were graduates.



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Police take a more feminine blue line

By Stewart Tennen

# Dinosaur skin found at giant nesting site

## Thousands of eggs discovered in Patagonian mud, writes Nigel Hawkes

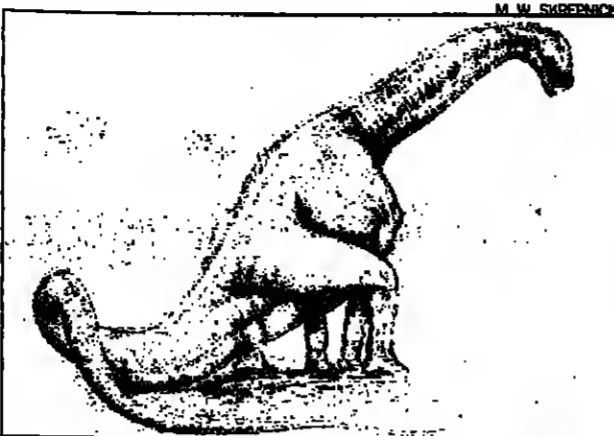
SCIENTISTS have for the first time discovered perfectly preserved baby dinosaur skin, fossilised in eggs at an ancient nesting site.

At the site in Patagonia, evidently used by large herds of dinosaurs 70 to 90 million years ago, thousands of eggs litter the ground so densely that it is almost impossible to walk across the site without crushing some of them.

A team led by Luis Chappé, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, found that dozens of the eggs still had unhatched dinosaurs inside them.

When opened, they revealed the bones of tiny embryos just a few inches long and, even more remarkably, perfectly preserved traces of skin. This is the first time the skin of baby dinosaurs has ever been seen.

The skin is scaly, like that of a modern lizard, and in one embryo a line of larger scales can be seen running across the creature's back, forming a



An impression of a titanosaur laying a clutch of eggs

stripe that ran down the backbone.

The species of dinosaur is difficult to identify from the embryos, but they appear to have been plant-eating creatures belonging to the group known as sauropods. These were the largest of the dinosaurs.

One embryo has 32 tiny pen-

cil-shaped teeth, a shape found in only one known dinosaur from this period, *Titanosaurus australis*. The remains of titanosaurs are common at the site in the "badlands" of Patagonia, so it seems very likely that the eggs came from this species.

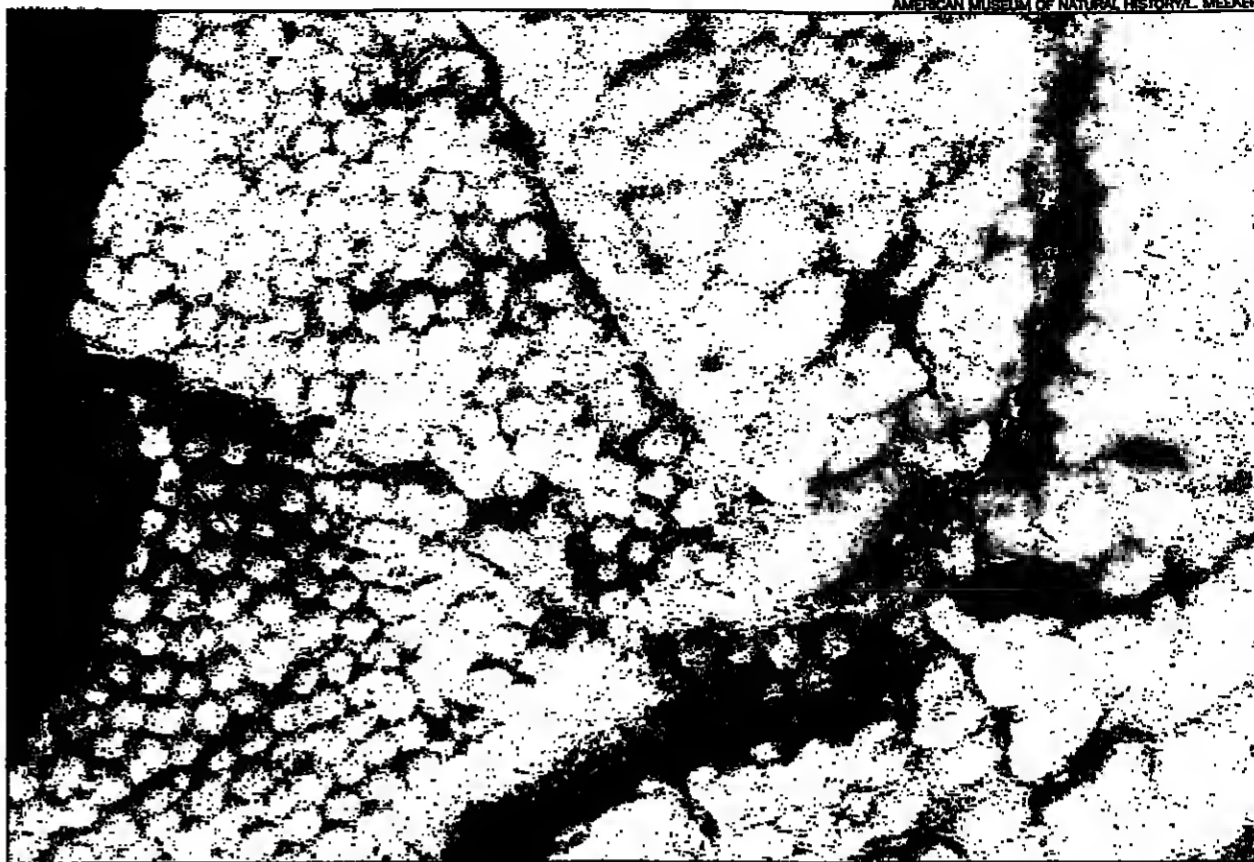
The clear patterns on the skin would eventually have de-

veloped into the bony, armoured plates carried by the adults. This growth pattern mirrors that of modern armoured lizards and crocodiles, whose young lack the bony patches found in adults, the team reports in *Nature*.

If they had hatched, the baby dinosaurs would have been about 15in long, and would have grown at great speed to an adult size of nearly 45ft. The eggs are so beautifully preserved, the team believes, because they were laid in the flood plain of ancient streams that overflowed from time to time, burying the eggs in a layer of mud.

This protected them from scavengers and from damage from the elements. Over the years, adult dinosaurs kept coming back to the same nesting site to lay their eggs, explaining why there are so many eggs at the site.

It is likely that hundreds or maybe even thousands of the huge creatures gathered here to lay their eggs, in a valley



The fossilised skin of a baby dinosaur recovered from the site in Patagonia, where thousands of eggs were found

site formed by several streams. During that period, at the end of the Cretaceous, the giant sauropods were less common than they had been in the Jurassic, but many must have lived in this region. The area where the eggs

were found, near Nequen, has proved to be a rich source of dinosaur fossils in the past decade, many of them found by Rodolfo Coria, a palaeontologist of the Municipal Museum in Nequen, who was also involved in the latest find. The

nesting site where the find was made has been named Aucá Mahuevo, after the Spanish word for egg, *huevo*.

Lowell Dingus, a member of the team from the American Museum of Natural History, told of his astonishment when the team stumbled across the nesting site. "We knew from geological maps that rocks of the right age were exposed in this area, but no one had ever looked for dinosaur fossils there before. We were hoping for the best, but when we saw what we had found I was shocked. It's just not the sort of thing you anticipate."

"Palaeontologists spend a

lot of time prospecting, just like people prospect for gold, but at least 99 times out of 100 you don't find anything.

"To wander into an area littered with dinosaur eggs, a number of which turn out to have embryos in them and skin casts, is the kind of thing you dream about. It very, very rarely happens.

"The patches of skin we found were as large as a square inch. They're scaly, like the skin of a lizard - you can feel the scales. What is so amazing is that it gives you an idea of what it would have been like to touch one of these animals."

## Rusty pipe linked to nuclear leaks

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

A RUSTING pipe used for discharging liquids from the Dounreay nuclear plant is believed to be the source of almost 90 radioactive "hotspots" discovered on the seabed.

Small particles of radioactive metal were detected by divers using monitoring equipment during a nine-week underwater investigation in the Pentland Firth close to the Caithness site.

When 35 similar particles were found last year, the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, imposed an exclusion zone which banned commercial fishing within a 12 mile radius of the nuclear plant.

John Simson, Dounreay's environmental protection manager, said the particles, no bigger than grains of sand, were recovered from the seabed and were being analysed at the plant's laboratory.

More than 180 "hotspots" have been found on the shore at Dounreay in the last 15

years. They have forced the closure of a popular beach at Sandside Bay.

Yesterday Lorraine Mann, of Scotland Against Nuclear Dumping, said: "This new finding confirms the need for the fishing ban to remain in place around the plant. In the light of this disturbing new evidence, consideration should be given to extending it."

Roy Nelson, the plant's director, said that the radioactive particles were believed to have leaked from the pipe which discharged materials 600 yards offshore in the 1960s and 1970s. The pipe's diffuser was replaced in the early 1990s but the pipeline was badly damaged when it became tangled in the nets of a trawler several years ago.

The on-going examination of the seabed is part of a clean-up operation being carried out by Dounreay's operators, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

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### Cook told officials to warn off mercenary

By Valerie Elliott  
Whitehall Editor

ROBIN COOK ordered Foreign Office staff to give a formal warning to the arms-to-Africa mercenary chief, Colonel Tim Spicer, not to be involved in any contract to send illegal arms to Kosovo.

His intervention over the firm which claimed the Government had connived in supplying arms to Sierra Leone in breach of a UN arms embargo emerged when the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee questioned Sir John Kerr, permanent secretary at the Foreign Office, yesterday. Sir John said that three recent contacts with Col Spicer were "specifically with ministerial authority" and that minutes were taken and witnesses present.

The FO confirmed that Mr Cook instructed a director to meet Colonel Spicer, director of Sandline International, to ensure that he understood the exact scope of the arms embargo to the former Yugo-



Sir John Kerr told MPs of three recent contacts with Colonel Tim Spicer of Sandline

slavia. It was made clear in Whitehall last night that Mr Cook's fears were heightened by intelligence and diplomatic reports that the company might be involved in discussions involving a possible

breach of the embargo. Sandline supplied arms to the deposed President Kabbah to restore his Government in Sierra Leone. Colonel Spicer has always maintained the action was done with approval of

the British Government. In July Colonel Spicer was summoned to the Foreign Office to be warned that he should have no business dealings with a certain overseas businessman.

## Ulster refuses to pay PR firm for US tour 'failure'

By Martin Fletcher, Chief Ireland Correspondent

THE Government has suspended payment to a leading public relations agency, claiming it failed adequately to promote a £1 million, three-week tour of America featuring the heroes of the Good Friday peace accord last month.

Shandwick's Washington office won a contract worth roughly £300,000 to promote the "Investment Roadshow" with David Trimble, Seamus Mallon and Mo Mowlam in a country that has 40 million citizens of Irish descent and treats Northern Ireland almost like a domestic story.

It should have been a plum assignment, but instead of making the headlines few television stations and newspapers gave the coast-to-coast tour much publicity.

While Gerry Adams goes from one chat show to another on US tours, no such arrangements were made for the mainstream nationalist and Union-

ist leaders. Sources said that Northern Ireland's Industrial Development Board was singularly unimpressed by Shandwick's operation, and that the Central Office of Information is now preparing to investigate.

Mr Trimble, the First Minister who was awarded the Nobel peace prize during the trip, and Mr Mallon, Northern Ireland's Deputy First Minister, were equally disenchanted. "It was a nightmare from a PR point of view," one official in the party said.

"It was less than satisfactory... I was aghast," another said.

The roadshow involved up to two dozen politicians and officials touring 11 cities in a chartered plane. It was designed to attract US investment to Northern Ireland. At its New York launch, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, hailed it as the "biggest ever initiative

to promote Northern Ireland as an investment location".

The problem was not bad coverage, but the lack of coverage. Officials said the PR agency focused on a few elite business journalists and selected editorial boards to the almost total exclusion of the general media. Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon were in great demand, but practically no television appearances or radio interviews were arranged for them. Journalists were barred from their presentations to businessmen. There was little or no advance publicity.

"I don't think they realised the international impact of the story they had on their hands or why these guys were there," one source said.

Both the IDB and the COI declined to comment yesterday. Shandwick said the company's policy was "not to discuss the work we do for our clients with the media".

### NEC lifts ban on media contacts

By Jill Sherman  
Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S national executive last night watered down a controversial code of conduct on how members should deal with the media. Last week Margaret McDonagh, the party's general secretary, circulated a code which insisted that NEC members should not speak out on a range of issues, and should clear any statements with the press office.

The code, which has now been renamed "guidance", said that, to avoid exposing internal divisions, members should not take part in head-to-head debates with other party members.

But several NEC members accused the leadership of "control freakery". Yesterday Liz Davies, one of the four new left-wing members, voted against the guidance.

A party spokesman said that the changes made clear that the paper was not intended to silence debate and it would not be a disciplinary offence if members spoke out.

## Hague must decide if he is a family man

THE Tories are keeo to show they have a social as well as an economic agenda. But they seem intellectually torn. They want the Government to support and encourage the family, but oppose the nanny state.

William Hague's Wilberforce lecture earlier this week sought to reconcile these positions. His attempt to link Conservative principles with the Christian moral tradition is a necessary exercise in bridge-building with the Church after the tensions of the past two decades. But as Mr Hague rightly argued, no party or politician has "a copyright on Scripture". It is pointless to compete to be holier than thou.

More significantly, Mr Hague tried to establish a moral case for limited government (and the limits of politics), for the market economy and capitalism, for low taxes and for the family as a crucial factor in a healthy society. He noted that "when the state takes over responsibility for decisions about healthcare, schooling, pensions and other welfare provision, a price is paid in a diminished sense of civic obligation and personal responsibility".

That begs the question of how to sustain family and marriage. Both Mr Hague and the Government, in its Green Paper, are at pains to avoid appearing moralistic. They are for marriage and believe it is best for children, but do not want to appear to be against single parents.

The Government wants to help families by a mixture of sensible advice (for instance, on the role of grandparents) and intervention by extending the work of health visitors. The pro-family lobby has concentrated on changing taxes and benefits to support mar-

riage. Mr Hague revived the Tory manifesto proposal for a tax allowance for married couples where one is working and the other is caring for children or an elderly relative.

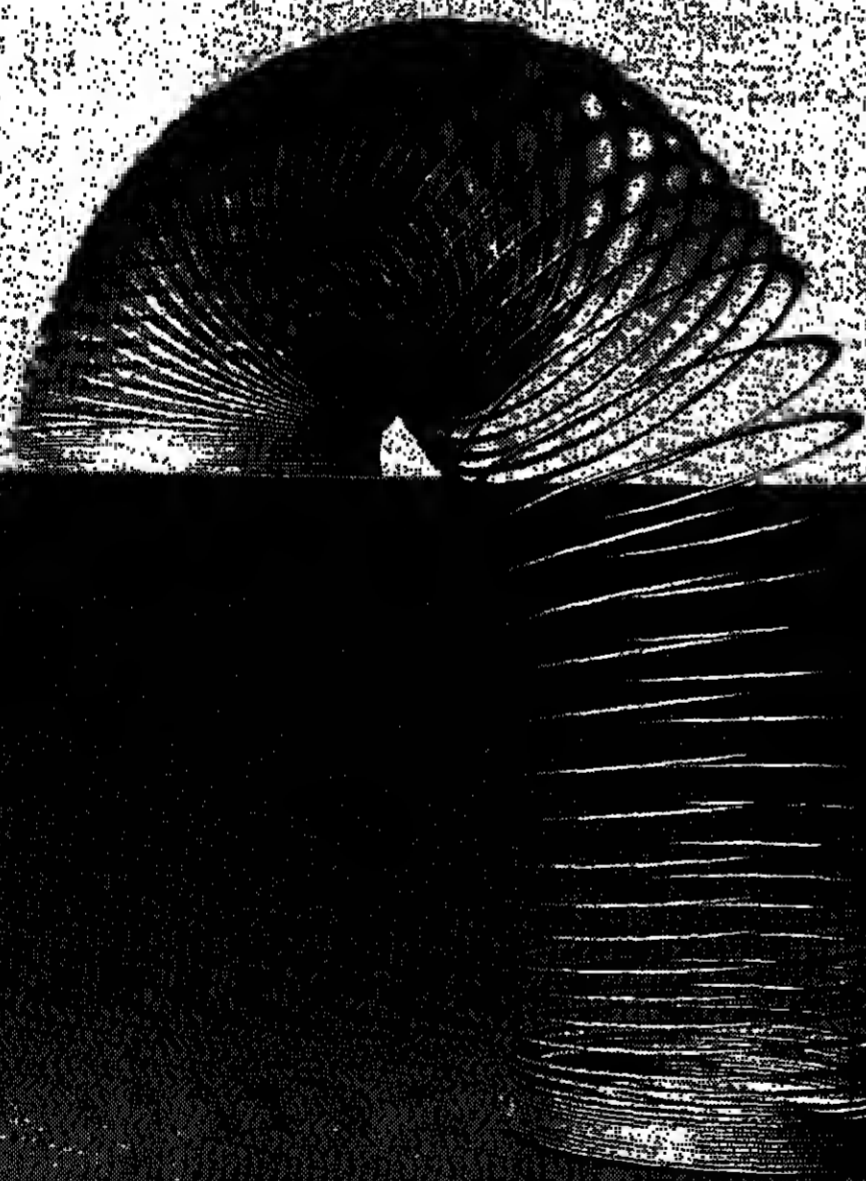
Much of the Republican soul-searching since the mid-term elections has been about how the party should help the family and how far it should jettison its social conservative message. Should it present its case in the softer and more appealing terms of "big tent" / inclusive conservatism like the Bush brothers' successful governorship campaigns? David Frum, the conservative commentator, argued in *The New York Times* that there is a moral choice: between liberals who believe that smoking and waste are public matters while sexual conduct is an individual's own business, and conservatives who worry that liberal solutions to family break-up will expand the role of the state and who believe the decline of the family should be reversed. That implies taking a moral stand on what others regard as private conduct.

Most Tories share Mr Frum's worries about "liberal" solutions: for instance, whether Welfare to Work measures to encourage lone parents to return to work conflict with allowing mothers to look after young children. But Tory leaders have been wary of taking a moral stand about private behaviour. A majority of the public takes a liberal view on, say, homosexuals and lone parents. Taking a moral stand may mean extending the role of the state.

Mr Hague has opened up an important debate for the Tories. But changing tax allowances does not amount to a family policy.

Peter Riddell  
ON POLITICS

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# 'Human zoo' owner on trial in Thailand

### Report in Times prompted a government inquiry, writes Andrew Chant

A REPORT in *The Times* exposing a 'human zoo' camp in Thailand where 21 children from a long-necked Burmese hill tribe were kept on show for tourists forced a Thai government inquiry that led to its closure, a northern Thailand court was told yesterday.

The report, published last November, was forwarded by the Thai Embassy in London and led to an inquiry by Lada-wan Wongsriwong, the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Chuan Leekpai. After receiving evidence gathered by Andrew Drummond, a correspondent for *The Times*, and Sudarat Sereewat, Secretary-General of the Coalition to Fight Against Child Exploitation, Ms Lada-wan went to see the camp's conditions for herself. After her visit the Interior Minister ordered its closure.

In court in Fang, near the Burmese border, were Thana Nakluang, the camp owner, and Rakkiat Sri Siriwitai, the manager of the "human zoo" in Ban San Thon Du, near Thason. Both deny depriving people of their liberty and that the detention caused death. They face sentences of three to 20 years in prison.

Ms Sudarat told the court how she travelled with Mr Drummond and officials to Ban San Thon Du after they had heard pleas for help — recorded on tape and smuggled out through tourists — from Padaung families inside. With them was an aide to the Karen Refugee Committee, Zaw Thet, himself a Padaung. "When they saw us they rushed to the gates," said Ms Sudarat.



Paduang women from a remote Burmese hill tribe at Nasoi refugee camp in Thailand. Relatives taken captive were used as a tourist attraction



Tribeswomen became exploited exhibits

## Cyber-dissident faces secret Shanghai trial

AS THE Chinese Communist Party struggles to maintain its monopoly of power and sources of information, a computer executive is to be tried in secret next week for "inciting subversion of state power", the Information Centre of Human Rights and Pro-Democracy Movement reported yesterday (James Pringle writes). The alleged cyber-dissident, Lin Hai, 30, is accused of sup-

plying "foreign hostile publications" with 30,000 Chinese e-mail addresses so that they could receive reports on politically sensitive topics and criticism of China's Government. The Shanghai trial is believed to be the first high-profile prosecution for alleged Internet subversion. The human rights group released a letter from Mr Lin's wife, Xu Hong, calling for an open trial.

## NEC lifts ban on media contacts

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S national executive committee has lifted its ban on media contacts for its MPs, a move that will allow them to speak to the press and appear on television.

## League must decide if he is family man

Mr Riddell must decide if he is a family man

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

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# US 'encouraging' Malaysian unrest

By M.G.G. PILAI IN KUALA LUMPUR AND DAVID WATTS, ASIA EDITOR

IN A blistering attack on the United States for inciting political dissidence, the Malaysian Government said yesterday that Washington would shoulder the blame for any further street protests.

Responding to a summit dinner speech by Vice-President Al Gore at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) forum, a Foreign Ministry statement attacked his "most unwarranted intrusion" and "incitement... to lawlessness." Thus the Malaysian Government brought an already unsuccessful economic summit to a new low. It has already been marred by a lack of agreement on a free trade package and its importance has been reduced by the absence of President Clinton because of the standoff with Iraq.

In a dinner speech on Monday night, Mr Gore shocked his audience when he told them: "Among nations suffering economic crisis, we continue to hear calls for democracy in many languages."

"We hear them today — right here, right now — among the brave people of Malaysia," he added, just days after Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, had met Wan Azizah, the wife of the detained

former Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim. Dr Azizah has also been in contact with visiting delegations from Australia and Canada while Mr Anwar himself has launched legal action, claiming that his removal from office was unconstitutional since it was not approved by the United Malays National Organisation political party, of which he is a member.

Mr Clinton yesterday commended Mr Gore for his speech. The two men spoke by telephone, said a White House spokesman, who added that the President had intended to deliver the same speech had he travelled to the summit.

"It was certainly the speech that we were planning to give and it certainly reflects US policy," he said.

The Apec summit has been marked by anti-government protests not merely in support of Mr Anwar but also demanding the removal of Danuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister, whom many Malaysians criticise not only for his dictatorial methods and corruption but also blame for damaging relations with foreign countries.

Mr Anwar is still on trial on charges of corruption and sodomy but the

trial has been adjourned until after the summit.

Abdullah Badawi, the Foreign Minister, said: "Malaysia regrets as most unwarranted the provocative remarks made by US Vice-President Al Gore and the White House."

"Malaysia finds the incitement by the US Government to lawlessness by certain elements within the country to use undemocratic means in order to overthrow constitutionally elected elements most abhorrent."

He said Malaysia "prized its peace and racial harmony" and added that Kuala Lumpur would hold the US responsible for "any rupture of this harmony arising from this irresponsible incitement."

The Foreign Minister accused Washington of serving its own narrow interests and declared that its intrusion was a "gross interference" in the internal affairs of Malaysia and also a "brazen violation of the basic tenets of relations between sovereign states." He said: "Malaysia does not take kindly to such sanctimonious sermonising from any quarter, especially the United States, a country which is known to have committed gross violations of human rights."



Two Kurdish men who doused themselves with petrol and set themselves ablaze in Moscow yesterday to protest against the treatment of Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) founder held in Rome. One was critically ill (Our Foreign Staff writes). Mr Ocalan has led a

## Fireball protest by Kurds

14-year struggle against Turkey for Kurdish self-rule in which about 37,000 have died. He fled to Moscow last month after Syria agreed to expel him from his base there. He was captured in

Rome and Turkey sought his extradition. Kurds are streaming into Rome — 10,000 marched there yesterday — and holding rallies and hunger strikes across Europe to stop the move. More

than 4,000 protested in Bonn yesterday. Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, said asylum would be granted only if he had really renounced terrorism. In Yuksekova, southeastern Turkey, four people were killed in a suicide attack by a Kurdish woman on a police station.

## Attack on executive wife baffles police

FROM MARK FULLER IN AMSTERDAM

DUTCH authorities were yesterday still trying to determine a motive for the violent abduction last week of the estranged wife of one of the country's leading executives.

Hansje Boonstra-Raaijms, the 62-year-old wife of Cor Boonstra, chairman of electronics giant Philips, was discovered beside a road near Rotterdam on Friday evening, barely conscious, handcuffed and suffering from hypothermia. She had been badly beaten around the head after having been abducted in her own car from her home in Belgium. Dutch police yesterday appealed for witnesses to come

forward after conceding that they were baffled by the crime. They said that Mrs Boonstra had clearly been targeted by one or two "hitmen", but it was unclear whether the perpetrators were pursuing a vendetta against Mrs Boonstra or other members of her family.

One theory is that disgruntled employees of Philips may have been trying to hit back at the strongarm, no-nonsense business strategy of the chairman. Mr Boonstra, 60, who recently left his wife for the head of a female temping group, scrapped 6,000 jobs after taking control of the company two years ago.



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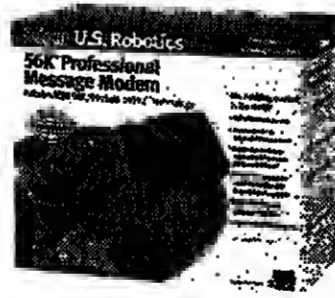
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Models tell

# US spy blamed for death of Resistance hero

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

JEAN MOULIN, the French Resistance hero who died after being tortured by the Gestapo in 1943, fell into the hands of the Germans because of bungled American espionage and not through the treachery of a fellow Resistance member, according to a book published in France today.

Historians have long thought that Moulin was betrayed by René Hardy, a Resistance fighter believed to have turned traitor. But the author Jacques Baynac claims that the Gestapo intercepted the Resistance chief when he met an American agent two days before he was arrested.

Charged by de Gaulle with unifying the various anti-Nazi resistance groups within France, Moulin, a former prefect of the Eure-et-Loir region, was arrested at a meeting of Resistance leaders in the home of Dr Frédéric Dugoujon in Caluire, near Lyons, on June 21, 1943.

Imprisoned and tortured in the Montluc fortress by Klaus Barbie, the head of the Lyons Gestapo, Moulin died on or around July 8 as he was being transferred to Germany.

After the war it was assumed that Hardy had gone to the meeting with Moulin, having arranged for the Gestapo to follow him. But in *The Secrets of the Jean Moulin Affair* — Unpublished Archives

of the Resistance, M Baynac claims that the Gestapo got on to Moulin's trail two days earlier when he met Frédéric Brown, an American agent of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the US secret service.

Brown, who was parachuted into France to provide help to the Resistance, met Moulin in Avignon on June 19. But according to M Baynac, the Germans had been informed of the meeting in advance by Lili Méret, an OSS agent who was then under arrest at the Gestapo offices in Marseilles.

"The Germans knew the day, the place and the approximate time of the Brown-Moulin meeting," writes M Baynac. "They only had to maintain discreet surveillance at the meeting point to pick up Moulin in Avignon and follow him to Lyons. Two days later, following on Moulin's heels, Barbie and his men burst into Dr Dugoujon's house, five minutes after he entered."

The author, who has consulted hitherto secret archives in France, Britain, the US, Hungary and Switzerland, reveals that Brown was removed from his post after the arrest of Moulin and investigated on suspicion of counter-espionage. His superior, Arthur Roseborough, the OSS head in Algiers, who had entrusted him with the mission, was dismissed.

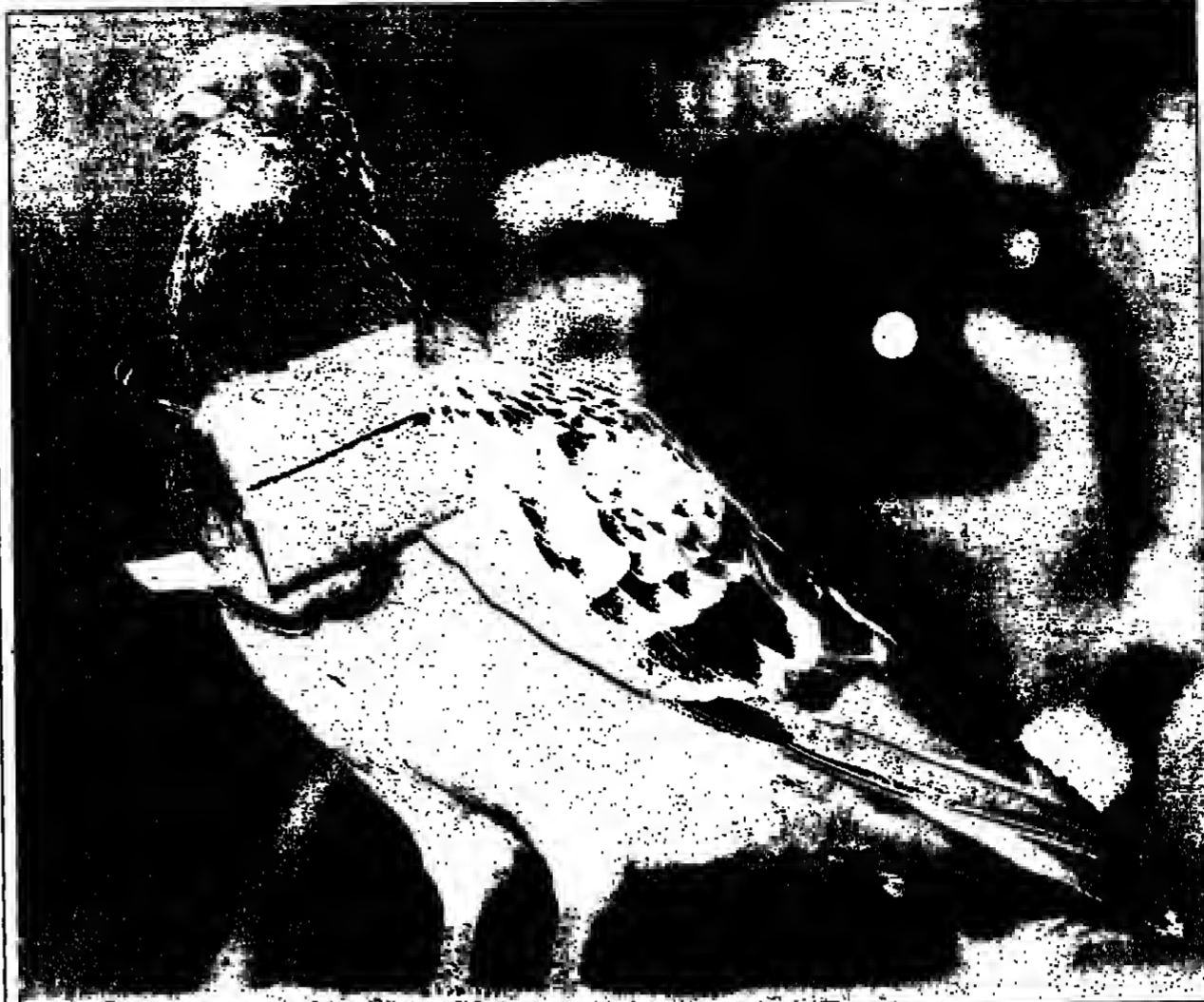
Hardy was assumed to be the traitor and was tried twice after the war. He was acquitted on both occasions, but was widely assumed to be guilty.

"For the sake of the Cold War and for 50 years, the truth has been hidden and Hardy has been blamed, while the Nazi thug Barbie was protected by the US, which was unwilling to see its role in the arrest of Jean Moulin revealed," M Baynac writes.

The most famous French Resistance fighter was therefore "a victim less of treachery than of circumstances", and an American spying mission that was uncovered by the Nazis.



Moulin: died after being tortured by the Gestapo



A stuffed pigeon takes centre stage at police headquarters in Frankfurt yesterday. Live pigeons were allegedly being used by a man, accused of blackmailing Nestlé, to carry diamonds to him in pouches around their necks

## Pigeons home in on blackmail suspect

Frankfurt: A man who allegedly blackmailed Nestlé, the Swiss food company, by poisoning its products, was arrested after two years. Mr Nehmet has claimed he is innocent, but police said they were looking for accomplices.

Alexandru Nehmet, 43, was arrested near Frankfurt after allegedly blackmailing Nestlé and German subsidiaries over the past two years. Mr Nehmet has claimed he is innocent, but police said they were looking for accomplices.

Police said Nehmet had asked for DM25 million (£9 million) of uncut diamonds from Thomy, a Nestlé subsidiary, after inserting cyanide into 20 mustard and mayonnaise tubes and replacing them on supermarket shelves.

The blackmailer had planned for the pigeons to return to their loft with a pay-off in diamonds after he placed cyanide in Nestlé products and put the poisoned goods back on store shelves, police said.

## Models tell of being lured to prostitution for rich and famous

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FOUR aspiring young models told a packed Paris court yesterday that they had been raped and sexually assaulted by Jean-Pierre Bourgeois, a soft-porn photographer and one of the alleged organisers of a high-class prostitution ring which procured girls as young as 15 for film stars, politicians, international businessmen and Arab princes.

is suspected of luring naive young girls into the vice ring by promising them modelling contracts in the Bahamas and the South of France. The four young women are among a dozen who have joined the case as civil plaintiffs.

On the second day of the trial yesterday, they described how M Bourgeois allegedly took obscene photographs and sexually assaulted them before introducing them to wealthy clients. One of the young women, Nadia Makawy, 22, told the court that, after meeting M Bourgeois in

1996, he invited her to his home for a modelling session and took sexually explicit pictures. She said that she was then taken to the luxurious Hotel Meurice where she was introduced to several men, including a famous American actor. Mlle Makawy described M Bourgeois as "very perverted" and said the photographer placed her in a situation where she constantly felt guilty and afraid.

French authorities are said to be concerned about the possibility of the vice ring's client list, which allegedly includes several valuable Middle Eastern customers of the French arms industry and two senior French politicians, being revealed during the trial.

Julia Trapp, a Swede, was 16 when she was introduced to M Bourgeois in the summer of 1996 by a friend of the family, Janina Tordstedt, 50, who has since been charged with complicity in pimping, along with Thomas Axell, 49.

Speaking in Swedish through an interpreter, Ms Trapp described her to a boat moored off St Tropez with the promise of lucrative modelling contracts. There he introduced her to a millionaire and three Arab dignitaries. The next day, she was put on a plane back to Sweden by M Bourgeois's Lebanese-born business partner, Nazih al-Ladki, who is also on trial for pimping.

Ms Trapp, who says she has been traumatised since the incident, said: "I cannot understand how people from such a high social level could do such things to children." M Bourgeois denies that he acted as a pimp. He admits introducing the girls to friends but said he did not do so for purposes of prostitution and that he made no money from the introductions.

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# Tapes voice anguish of Monica

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
IN WASHINGTON

EVERYONE knows her face: now Monica Lewinsky has finally been given a voice. At times whining, at others excitedly babbling and often almost unintelligible for distressed sobbing, the young woman whose affair with President Clinton sparked an impeachment inquiry was heard publicly for the first time yesterday.

The release of the notorious "Monica tapes" — secret recordings made by Linda Tripp of her conversations with the former White House trainee — vividly highlighted the emotional turmoil Ms Lewinsky was suffering. The soundtrack of her anguish is like-

ly to add to the pressure on Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, who is due to be grilled tomorrow about the way he conducted his inquiry into her affair with the President.

The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, which is holding the impeachment inquiry into Mr Clinton's behaviour, made public 37 tapes containing 22 hours of conversations covertly recorded by Mrs Tripp. They added nothing to the evidence given to the inquiry, as the full transcripts of the conversations about the affair and Ms Lewinsky's subsequent unhappiness, have already been released and pored over at length. But they show a deep misery that is not apparent from simply reading what

she said. From the reams of printed transcripts, many of the conversations appeared to be simply rambling telephone conversations between the two women about Ms Lewinsky's disgruntlement at the end of the affair, and Mr Clinton's failure to call her or help her to find a job. But on the tapes there are long sections where she is almost unable to talk for weeping.

On other occasions, when she is describing a meeting with the President, or a gift she plans to give him, Ms Lewinsky sounds like the precocious teenagers familiar from television shows set in Beverly Hills where she grew up. When she talks of falling in love with the President — "I never expected to feel that way about

him" — she has the fluency of a girl who spent much of her youth on psychiatrists' couches.

Equally compelling is Mrs Tripp's voice. She remains calm and collected as she nasally intones lists of the ways in which Mr Clinton has hurt Ms Lewinsky.

The release of the tapes had been delayed while technicians painstakingly edited out sections that had been cut by the judiciary committee because they contained foul language or referred to innocent parties.

A new poll in *USA Today* yesterday showed that almost two thirds of the American people view Mr Starr's handling of the inquiry negatively. The White House has been offered

half an hour to cross examine him and is understood to be considering whether to get involved in a scrap or leave the grilling to Democrats on the committee.

The Democrats are likely to ask Mr Starr about any contacts he had with lawyers representing Paula Jones before he asked to expand his mandate to investigate the Lewinsky affair. They want to depict him as over-zealous and politically motivated. It was reported yesterday, however, that Mr Starr may still be investigating Mr Clinton after he leaves office because of the new indictments he brought against Webster Hubbell, an old friend of the Clintons, concerning an alleged property scandal.

WORLD IN BRIEF

## Sudanese rebels clash in Nairobi

Nairobi: A fight in the Kenyan capital between rival factions of southern Sudan's main rebel group has left one man dead and several wounded (David Orr writes). The home of John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, was attacked by supporters of Kerubino Bol, a fellow Sudanese with whom Colonel Garang is locked in a bitter feud. Six people are understood to have been arrested.

Meanwhile, the war between government forces and the rebels continues to rage in Sudan, despite a supposed ceasefire in the areas most affected by famine. Two patients were killed and 11 wounded when a hospital in the southern town of Yei was bombed by government aircraft at the weekend.

## Spanish bus deaths

Madrid: Seven pupils and a lorry driver were killed in a collision between a school bus carrying students aged from 12 to 17 and a truck in the northern Spanish region of Asturias, officials said. Fifteen other students were hurt in the accident, which happened near the coastal town of Buelna as the bus travelled towards Llanes. The seriously injured were transferred by helicopter to hospital. According to one witness, the head-on crash happened in fog. (Reuters)

## Nero theory in flames

Rome: A wall painting dating from the first century AD that was uncovered near the Colosseum is not Rome in the time of Nero, as previously thought, but the French city of Arles, *Il Messaggero* reported (Richard Owen writes). The fresco was unearthed in the underground ruins of Nero's Golden House. Scholars were divided over the identity of the city in the painting, but Paolo Pascoli, the Mayor of Arles, claimed archaeologists had told him they believed the city was Arles.

## British hostage freed

Lagos: Eight oil workers, including an unnamed Briton, abducted last week by militant youths in southern Nigeria, were released unharmed and in good spirits, a Texaco official said. The hostages — who included three Americans and an Italian — were seized near the Niger River delta by armed youths from the ethnic Ijaw community who were demanding a ransom. Details of the conditions of the hostages' release were not made public. (AP)

## Le Pen appeal fails

Paris: A French appeals court upheld an assault conviction against Jean-Marie Le Pen, 70, banning the National Front leader from seeking office in next year's European elections and throwing his political future into doubt (Ben Macintyre writes). The court confirmed his three-month suspended jail sentence for assaulting a female political opponent in last year's legislative elections, but cut his ban on seeking elected office from two years to one. He may appeal again.

## Jackpot granny

Los Angeles: A grandmother, 67, who fed slot machines over more than 20 years, won \$27.6 million (£16.5 million) in Las Vegas. The unidentified woman realised her luck only when fellow players ran through Palace State Hotel Casino with the news. The largest slot machine jackpot yet, it was won at a machine linked to 700 others at 33 Nevada locations. The winner — six weeks ago she collected \$680,000 playing Wheel of Fortune — will not be sharing the cash with her family. (AFP)

## Young Jews to get free Israel trip

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER  
IN JERUSALEM

IN A COSTLY attempt to strengthen ties between Jewish youth and Israel, philanthropists yesterday launched a \$300 million (£184 million) programme offering free ten-day trips to Israel for every Jew in the world aged from 15 to 26.

Birthright Israel is the brainchild of the opposition Labour politician Yossi Beilin, who was dismayed at the weakening contacts between Jews in the Diaspora and Israel. "We have lost the feeling of partnership," he said.

"The first young Jews are due to arrive here in 2000. Private donors, Jewish charities and the Israeli Government have agreed to raise the money to finance the first five years."

The scheme is intended to combat assimilation by Jewish communities abroad, which some Jews call a new Holocaust.

"This will at least keep people thinking about their roots," Mr Beilin told *The Jerusalem Post*. "Many of them today do not know what they are losing by cutting their contact with the Jewish people."

□ Arafat backing: As the Knesset yesterday debated the Wye peace deal, the Palestinian leader Yassir Arafat defused the latest crisis over its implementation by publicly disavowing violence.



The transformation of Hillary Clinton continues (Damian Whitworth writes). Looking chic and composed, above, America's First Lady sits in a soft light on a White House terrace studying papers and looking almost presidential. Gone is the more familiar furrowed brow, left, the popycled look and toothy grin.

After emerging from the Monica Lewinsky scandal as almost the only person with her image enhanced, she has been given iconic status: she is the first First Lady to appear on the cover of *Vogue*. Mrs Clinton has won wide-

## Fresh image for First Lady

spread praise and booming popularity for her dignified silence on the subject of her husband's errant ways.

In the election she proved the Democrats' most effective campaigner and there are calls for her to run for public office herself after Mr Clinton's presidency ends. Now the American edition of the style bible has published photographs of her by the celeb-

rity photographer Annie Leibovitz. She is depicted as a glamour queen unrecognisable as the woman with unkempt hair and granny glasses who first appeared on the public stage. "I think she's feeling incredibly confident and good about the way she looks," said the magazine's editor, Anna Wintour. "If you look at the year she's had, how many women could behave with such stature?"

Mrs Clinton has had numerous image revamps with countless hairstyle changes but has never achieved the relaxed poise of the new photographs.

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 IT'S NOT JUST A IT'S AN ADVENTURE

# UN inspectors set for 'ice-cream war'

### Team will try to thwart movement of arms, write James Bone in New York and Sam Kiley in Baghdad

BACKED by the threat of US and British airstrikes, United Nations weapons inspectors returned to Baghdad yesterday to begin the most sensitive round yet of their eight-year investigation into President Saddam Hussein's arsenal.

A first contingent of 86 will target the First Battalion of Saddam's Republican Guard, suspected of moving key elements in weapons of mass destruction in a cat-and-mouse game with the inspectors. Specialist teams will be arriving in the coming days.

The inspectors are expected to demand access to sensitive sites, such as secret police headquarters, Saddam's "palaces" and the private homes of his friends where, Western intelligence agencies believe, he is hiding deadly stockpiles. The team is also to demand top-secret documents.

Speaking in New York, Richard Butler, the chief inspector, said: "The material we need exists. It is in the possession of the Government of Iraq. They can choose to give it to us or not. It's their call — and it's a crucial call."

Caroline Cross, a spokes-

woman for Unscorn, the inspection agency, said in Baghdad: "We are looking forward to a professional and productive relationship with the Iraqi authorities over the next few days. Time will tell."

According to US press reports, Washington has set an unofficial deadline of December 19 for compliance.

Observers in Baghdad believe Saddam knows how close he came to being bombed at the weekend, but they fear he will never surrender the secrets of his most devastating weapons. They said the swift action being expected of the inspectors could put them on a collision course with Baghdad and provoke another crisis.

Among the first tests of Iraq's readiness to co-operate is likely to be a demand that Baghdad turn over a logbook discovered by inspectors at an Iraqi airbase earlier this year.

UN sources say the logbook, mentioned by President Clinton at the weekend, shows that Iraq used 50 per cent fewer chemical munitions during the 1980-88 war with Iran than previously disclosed, raising questions about the size of its possible stockpile.

Mr Butler wrote to Iraq yesterday requesting surrender of the airbase document, along with two years of missing medical records from the Abu Ghraib prison, which inspectors say could reveal evidence of biological weapons testing on inmates in 1994-95.

The inspectors were also hauling plans for no-notice inspections at sites that may contain weapons-related documents and components. Their task was complicated, however, by the three-month hiatus in inspections and the welter of revelations about their plans that accompanied the resignation of a top inspector,

Scott Ritter, in August. Among the missions under consideration was a return visit to one of the eight presidential compounds to which access was restricted under February's agreement between Saddam and Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. So far, the inspectors have refrained from revisiting the sites.

Another likely target is Abed Hamid Mahmoud, Saddam's presidential secretary and an elder in his Tikrit clan, who is suspected of running the "concealment mechanism" by which Iraq hides its remaining weapons. Mr Ritter had tried to mount inspections of Mr Abed's personal office in January and July.

UN inspectors suspect Iraq has developed a sophisticated system of moving weapons-related material around the country in refrigerated "Tip Top Ice-Cream" lorries every 30 days. At one point, they believed, they were closing in on a stash of documents in tunnels beneath a presidential compound north of Tikrit but were called off by the US.

Simon Jenkins, page 18



A convoy carrying 86 arms inspectors leaving Habaniya air base, 40 miles west of Baghdad, yesterday after the United Nations team arrived back in Iraq to resume attempts to trace Saddam's weapons of mass destruction

## Clinton cancelled strike with only 18 minutes to spare

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS

AMERICAN cruise missiles were only 18 minutes from launch and strike aircraft 15 minutes from take-off when President Clinton called off the bombing raids on Iraq last Saturday.

The F14 and F18 aircraft could have been recalled to the USS Eisenhower if Mr Clinton's cancellation order had arrived during their flight of more than an hour to Baghdad. But the Tomahawk cruise missiles could not have been turned back or blown up harmlessly once launched, a Navy spokeswoman said.

Covers had been removed from missile pods on eight cruise-carrying warships in the Gulf when word went out to the fleet that the strikes had been suspended. Pilots on the Eisenhower were already climbing into their cockpits.

Mr Clinton, rejecting the recommendations of his top advisers, decided to allow President Saddam Hussein one more chance after receiving reports that Iraq would allow UN weapons inspectors to return.

This brinkmanship is expensive. If the current reinforcements stay in place for a

month, as expected, the extra costs will exceed \$600 million (£360 million). These range from "imminent danger" pay for the troops to tolls of \$4 million for an aircraft carrier and its support ships to pass through the Suez Canal.

The cost to Britain of contributing to the build-up of military forces will run into hundreds of thousands of pounds. The bill will exclude the 12 Tornado GR1s and aircrews already in Kuwait, because they have been accounted for as part of the Gulf deployment. The RAF has been operating combat air patrol flights from the Gulf since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

Saddam's temper tantrums since the Gulf War have cost American taxpayers about \$7 billion in rushing reinforcements to the region. That is in addition to \$50 billion spent annually to maintain an already strong military contingent in the Gulf.

The cost of patrolling the Iraqi no-fly zone, just published, is \$850 million a year. By calling off the week-long attacks last Saturday, Mr Clinton saved \$1 billion in missiles and bombs.

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NOVEMBER 18 1998

### NEC lifts ban on media contacts

By JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

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Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE BULL DOG

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# Kismet the emotional robot

Making robots appear more like babies in need of nurture encourages human beings to interact with them, says Anjana Ahuja

On the whole robots are lacking in the "cute" department. They may be able to roam distant planets and navigate burning buildings, but these automatons generally leave us cold.

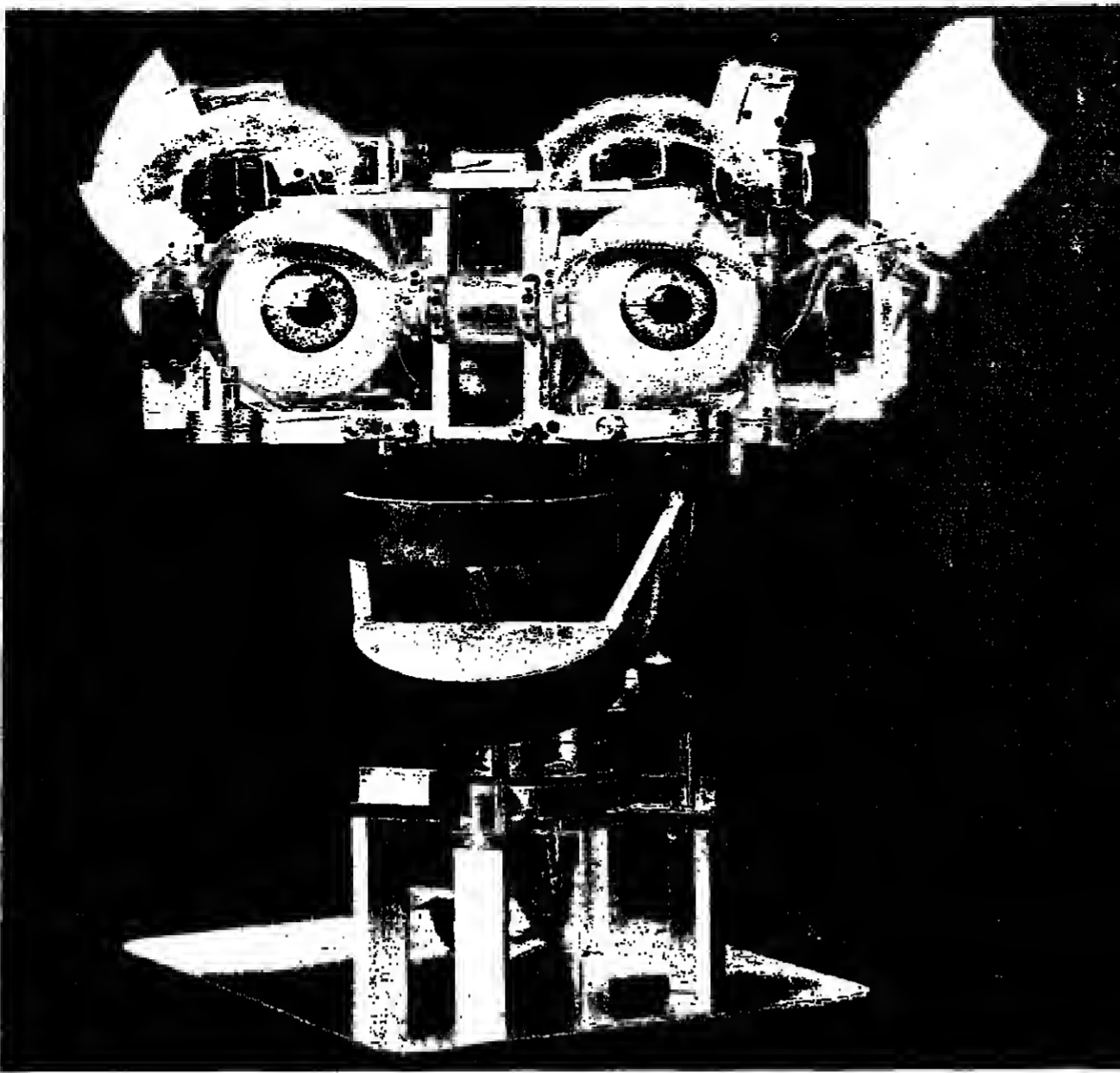
That, says Cynthia Breazeal, a researcher in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is proving a real problem for people trying to build the most advanced robots in the world. "Everyday life is so difficult and complicated that you cannot prepare a robot for every situation it might encounter," she says. "The robot's going to have to learn. But to get it to learn, you have to put it in a benevolent environment where a human being wants to nurture it."

That is why Kismet was created. The robot, whose name means good fortune in Turkish, is modelled loosely on an infant during its first year of life and was created by Ms Breazeal and her MIT colleagues Brian Scassella and Ulysses Gilchrist. "Even though babies don't have language, they communicate very well with their care-giver, certainly enough to satisfy their needs," she says.

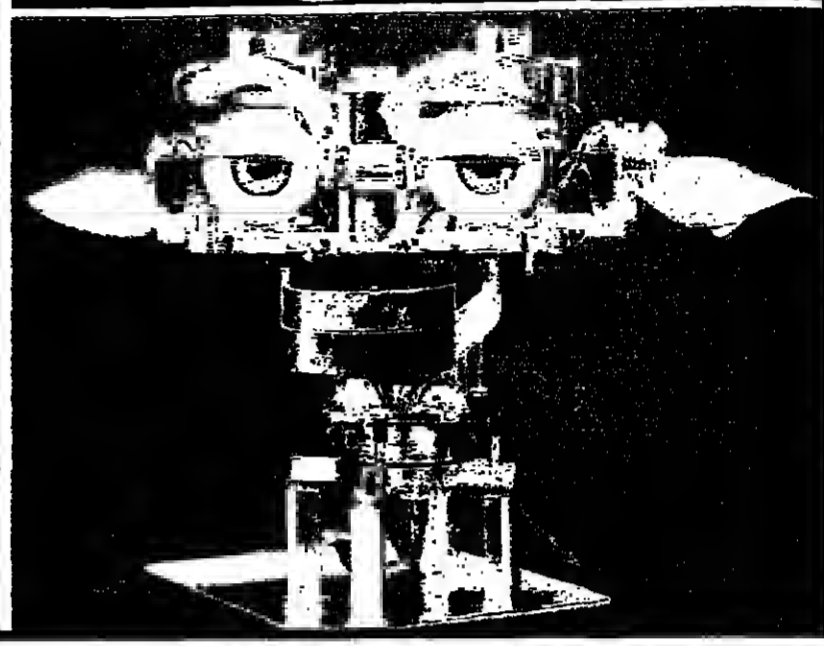
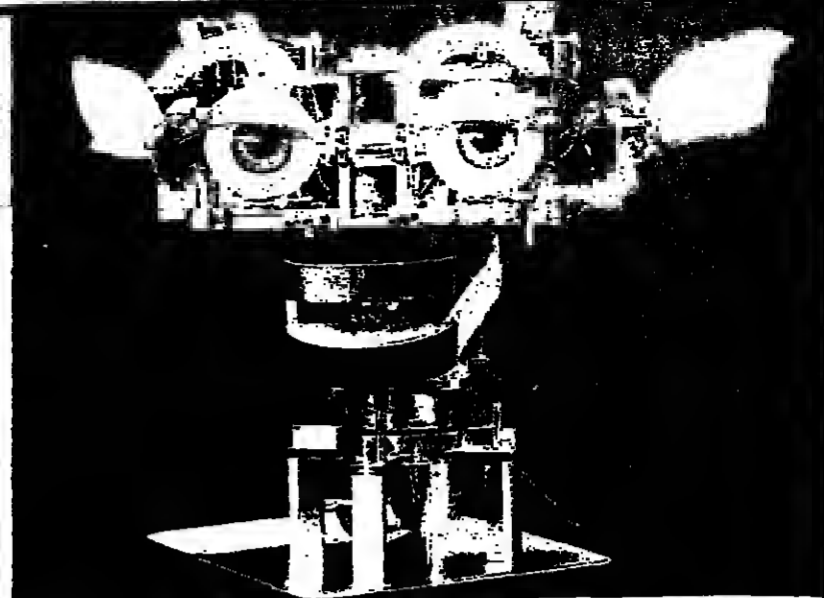
Kismet, too, has modest communication abilities but, just as a baby quickly becomes the centre of attention, Kismet has managed to captivate both AI researchers and novices. In years to come it could even become the new Tamagotchi. Its eyes, eyebrows, ears and mouth change position according to mood to display ten basic expressions: happiness, sadness, interest, surprise, calm, anger, fear, disgust, dread and sleep. It judges whether it is confronted with a face or a "non-face stimulus", then responds with one of these expressions. Each look has its own "drive" which must be satisfied, Ms Breazeal, who is working towards a PhD, says: "If the robot's drives are being met, then it is in a state of wellbeing and looks interested and perky. And if a person appears in front of it and behaves in an appropriate way, it will look happy."

Kismet uses a basic shading pattern to recognise faces, with dark patches for eyes and mouths so it can tell if anyone is in front of it. If left alone, it begins to look sad. When a threshold of, say, five minutes passes, the ears start to droop, the eyelids start falling and the eyebrows rise. It's very intuitive feedback.

Waving a non-face stimulus, such as a toy, in front of it restores a look of interest.



Kismet the robot bears a passing resemblance to the creatures in the film *Gremlins*: "A receptionist in our laboratory thinks it's the cutest thing ever," says Cynthia Breazeal of MIT



although waving it too frantically makes Kismet look fearful. If the person doesn't take the hint to back off, the robot will exhibit anger or disgust. The "fatigue drive" might even set in and send Kismet to sleep for a minute. The robot wakes up automatically in a state of calm, with its emotional drives reset, ready for another encounter. But if the person calms down and looks away for a few moments, its negative expressions disappear. The idea is that a person engages Kismet enough to stop it looking sad, but not so much that it is overwhelmed. If all the emotions are within an acceptable range, the robot maintains a happy gaze.

Just as babies rely on their adorable looks to attract an adult's interest, Kismet is rather endearing. "Babies evoke an

emotional response, which is critical to their survival," says Ms Breazeal. "You have to care about the robot and nurture it. If you couldn't care less about it, you're not going to play with it and it's not going to learn. That's why I want people to treat Kismet like an infant."

People do show strong reactions to her creation, which bears a passing resemblance to the creatures in the film *Gremlins*. "A receptionist in the laboratory thinks it's the cutest thing ever. She gets a real kick from seeing it change expression," says Ms Breazeal. "In fact, women seem more attuned to it than men."

The technological advances made during the manufacture of Kismet will be subsumed into the Cog project, an ambitious MIT program to make the world's most in-

telligent artificial being. But there is one sticking point — although Kismet can respond like an infant, it cannot learn. That enormous task will be absorbed into the development of Kismet II, under way at the moment.

Other improvements are planned for the new version, such as a mouth whose curvature changes with mood (at the moment it can only open and close) so that it can smile properly. Its neck will be more mobile, enabling it to look around its environment rather than just staring ahead. Skin and fur will be added over the frame of the face — this aims to evoke a more powerful emotional response. "We want to make it look like a furry, cute, fanciful creature," Ms Breazeal says. "We decided not to make it look like a human

baby because people have a very negative reaction if even the slightest feature is not quite right. And you have to get people to respond to it in the right way." Its interpretation of a face as a crude pattern of dark and light shades is also rather primitive — it cannot tell the difference between a "human face and that of a soft toy."

The researchers are considering installing "sound files" — computerised sounds such as giggles, cries and burbles that could be called up to accompany certain expressions. They would also like to endow their creature with the rudiments of hearing — not to understand language but to give it the ability to gauge mood from the sound of a voice.

Kismet has intrigued the artificial intelligence community because it incorpo-

rates so much technology in its human head-sized frame. "Most people just cover one area, such as vision, auditory systems or motor control, but Kismet has them all. In that sense it's unusual," Ms Breazeal says. "People get very excited about it because it's kind of way out."

"But the real test is yet to come. We have this grand vision to create a robotic creature that people can feel they are truly interacting with, so we really need to work on the learning bit. But if we can achieve that, it will be truly groundbreaking."

However, Ms Breazeal does not believe that Kismet's charms should be confined to the laboratory. With its floppy ears, enormous eyes and sweet expressions, it could be taken up by the entertainment and toy industries. Parents, take note.

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## New drugs bring flu relief

FLU HAS always been one of those illnesses from which it takes a week to recover if you are treated — and seven days if you are not. At last, a new range of drugs seems set to change this. The neuraminidase inhibitors (NI) are not a cure for flu but encouraging results in trials suggest that they can reduce the misery.

Last week the latest data on zanamivir, Glaxo Wellcome's NI, was presented in Denver, Colorado. When added to earlier results for this drug and for an NI called GS4104, produced by Roche, an encouraging picture is taking shape. Unlike the existing flu drugs amantadine and rimantadine, the NIs are equally effective at treating all types of flu, have preventive value if given at the start of an epidemic, and have few side-effects. And it does not seem likely that viral resistance will be an immediate problem.

Patients who took zanamivir suffered fewer symptoms and were back to normal activities up to two days sooner, according to the latest study, co-ordinated by Dr Douglas Fleming of the Birmingham Research Unit of the Royal College of General Practitioners. A total of 277 patients with flu were given either the drug — which is administered by inhaler — or a placebo. Those given the drug recovered sooner, felt less ill and suffered fewer complications.

"This trial confirmed that zanamivir provided important health benefits," says Dr Fleming. "We observed a significant reduction in the severity of symptoms reported by all patients, so zanamivir not only reduced the duration of the illness but made it less debilitating. Roche's drug, taken orally, is running slightly behind zanamivir, but also seems to be doing well in trials. The company reported that it reduced the severity of flu symptoms by 25 to 40 per cent, cut the duration of the illness by 30 per cent, and reduced complications such as bronchitis and sinusitis by 50 per cent. A third NI, produced by Biocryst in Birmingham, Alabama, is yet to undergo trials.

The NIs are the product of rational drug design. They act by blocking the action of neuraminidase, an enzyme on which the virus relies to infect new cells. Zanamivir was developed in Australia and licensed to Glaxo Wellcome by Biota Holdings, a Melbourne company. The drug slots into a cleft in the three-dimensional surface of the enzyme — the enzyme's "active site" — then stops it working.

The market for flu treatments, *Nature Biotechnology* estimates, is \$700 million a year (£409 million), but could climb to several billion if the NIs realise their promise.



**SCIENCE BRIEFING**  
Nigel Hawkes

### Spot the moose with loose habits

TWO biologists from the University of Nevada have risked ridicule by dressing up as a moose.

Dr Joel Berger dons the front end of a moose suit, his wife, Carol Cunningham, takes the rear. Thus attired, they move among the moose herds of Wyoming and Alaska, throwing balls of bear dung or snowballs soaked with wolf urine towards the moose. "This is high-tech science," Dr Berger told *The New York Times*.

The idea was to see if the absence of bear and wolves — traditional enemies of the moose — had altered their behaviour. They compared moose in Alaska, where bears and wolves still flourish, with those in Wyoming, where the predators have long since vanished. As expected, the Alaskan moose immediately became alert, and the hair rose on the back of their necks when they scented the missiles flung by the intrepid pair. The Wyoming moose remained indifferent.

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### Crisp future for lettuce

SCIENTISTS at the University of Nottingham have found a way of delaying the droop of lettuce leaves, a finding which could have considerable benefits both for lettuce-growers and for those of us who like a crisp salad.

Lettuce that lasts longer in the fridge might even reconcile reluctant consumers to genetically modified food.

Dr Ian Curtis and his colleagues used a method he has developed which can introduce gene modifications into many different types of lettuce. The genes are attached to an especially virulent form of the plant bacterium *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, which is then used to infect the plants. The beauty of the method is that it works with a wide variety of lettuce cultivars.

Dr Curtis has already used it to create lettuce with a more vigorous root system which may be more drought-tolerant, and lettuce with lower levels of nitrate in their leaves.

The ever-crisp variety was created by introducing a gene called T-cyt, which is responsible for making an enzyme that in turn is involved in the synthesis of cytokinin, a hormone responsible for growth and development.

The result was lettuce with higher levels of cytokinin, which is known to delay the natural process of senescence and decay by protecting cell membranes.

The lettuce stays crisper for longer, which could potentially save much money for growers who at present have to store lettuce at low temperatures or in controlled atmospheres to ensure that it stays crisp.

## Sainsbury's Bank

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# Great maternity tour but where are the babies?

Monday: It is 5.20pm and we are standing in the foyer of St Luke's-Roosevelt hospital on 10th Avenue and 59th Street, under a white metal gazebo next to the gift shop, which offers an impressive selection of foil balloons and Beanie Babies. A troop of delivery boys hurries in and out bearing increasingly exotic baskets laden with a variety of flame lilies, stargazers and pineapples. And behind us what looks like a crematorium wall turns out, on closer examination, to be celebratory stone panels carrying the name of benefactors, including Time Warner, Ernst & Young and Vogue magazine. "We are proud to brew Starbucks coffee and serve Krispy Kreme donuts," says an advertisement for Café Roosevelt, on the first floor.

There are 60 of us altogether, 30 pregnant women (at varying stages of distension, and our strange collection of partners, waiting uneasily for a guide to whisk us off on the Maternity Tour — a compulsory trip for all those planning to give birth here. Several of the men are clearly reluctant participants, still in their corporate suits, impatiently sucking water from sports-top bottles. A knot of lesbian couples determinedly hold hands.

At 5.30pm our guide directs us to a lecture room, passing round leaflets advertising the hospital's birthing centre. Your beautifully decorated room will have hardwood floors, a full-sized bed, a rocking chair and a bassinet. To ease labour, you may take advantage of a new hydrotherapy tub. Accompanying this text is an artist's sketch reminiscent of a honeymoon suite at the Holiday Inn.

With their guaranteed fast turnover, maternity wards are hugely profitable for American hospitals and, after a swanky refit, St Luke's-Roosevelt is top of the New York league.

"Hi, I'm Penny," says our guide, as we all sit down. "I'm a trained nurse and I'm now working in corporate America."

"Hi, Penny," several in our group chorus back on this the first stop of Theme Park Maternity.

"We've got a lot to offer," Penny goes on, smoothing the lapels on her ultra-



**Joanna Coles**  
NEW YORK LIFE

tailored green suit. "Whatever your needs, we can meet them. We've got high-tech stuff, just like in a movie, and if you prefer less of a medical ambience, we've got that, too. "I'll be showing you everything," she says with a smile. Her gold chain and matching earrings wink in the neon.

Including the birthing centre, which looks like a Vermont B&B, somewhere you'd go for the weekend to get away from it all.

While I am intrigued by the idea of giving birth in a "Vermont B&B", there appear to be two distinct disadvantages to the latest fad in birthing centres. The first and rather serious one is that

there is no access to pain relief. The second is that you are expected to go home a mere six hours after giving birth — although this is supposedly mitigated by the enticement of a single home visit from a nurse the following day.

"Any questions?" Penny inquires.

"Yes, how long does the nurse's visit last?" asks an anxious-looking woman with cropped black hair.

"I'm not sure," answers Penny.

"About an hour," calls out someone else. "I checked already."

"One hour, is that all?" exclaims the woman, looking even more anxious.

Penny, her face of corporate America unlined, moves smoothly on to discuss the nursery facilities.

"Hey," interrupts a man, his wife nudging him encouragingly. "Can births be videotaped?"

"That's between you and your doctor," says Penny with a grimace. "Normally they're not so keen. But photographs at any point during labour are fine."

"Malpractice," whispers

my neighbour. "If you've got it all on tape, it's much easier to nail them in court."

"So what's the nurse-to-patient ratio?" asks an aggressive voice from the back.

"Good question," says Penny brightly. "I'll try to get back to you on that."

As we progress down the turquoise corridors, the group has taken on the character of an unruly school trip. There are the Swots, who ply Penny with eager questions. The Bored, who stand at the back and talk. The Troublemakers, who tamper with medical equipment, the Show-Offs and the Worriers.

"When are you actually admitted?" demands a worrier.

"We had a friend who arrived too early and had to sleep with her head on an air-conditioner."

"Well, by the time you're admitted, you'll be in strong labour," explains Penny calmly.

"But can you give me a specific time?" persists the worrier.

"You'll learn about that in classes," says Penny, speeding along the corridor. Behind her we peer into rooms, gawping at the mothers

propped up in their beds as though we are on an outing to a medical zoo. Oddly, we never see a baby.

"Now this is a post-partum room," she cries above our hubbub as we crowd into a pleasant room with Laura Ashley-style decor and a large television bearing the sign "To rent this colour TV please call ext 6891".

"How much is the TV?" demands a troublemaker, the same one keen on videotaping the birth.

"Five dollars a day, and it must be in cash," says Penny, raising her voice to make sure we can all hear. "You should definitely keep some cash in your pocket."

"Check out this view, man," says one of the show-offs, a Wall Street type in a dark suit, clambering on to the bed and propping himself up on one elbow to stare downtown. It is a magnificent vista, taking in midtown, a glimpse of a glittering Hudson River, and beyond to the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. "Prime real estate or what?" he remarks as his wife tugs him off. "Too bad it's wasted on a hospital."

Outside, the horses that

pull tourist carriages round Central Park are clopping back to their stables for the night.

"In a real emergency we can deliver a baby in three minutes," Penny explains, demonstrating how to place an infant in a tray that turns out to be a baby-warmer. "Kinda reminds me of hearing french fries at Burger King," giggles a woman to her female partner, hoisting up her leggings.

Our last stop of the tour is the famous birthing centre, which would indeed look at home in a select guide to Vermont country inns. Penny presses on a large gilt-framed painting above the bed and it slides, James Bond-style, to reveal a hidden cupboard containing oxygen outlets and various medical apparatus. Suddenly, as we squeeze back into the corridor, we bear a baby's cry, and a nurse walks by with a tiny bundle. She pulls the blanket up so we can see its furious red face, and for the first and only time our entire unruly group — the Swots, the Troublemakers, the Worriers, the Show-Offs and the Bored — are united as rapt parents-in-waiting.

## Is styling William Hague a mission impossible?

The Tory leader has called in an image consultant. Can anything be done, asks Grace Bradberry

In the run-up to the last election, the Tories complained bitterly that Labour had stolen their clothes. They meant this metaphorically and were talking of matters of substance, not style.

William Hague has now had to strip off that metaphor, calling in the dapper John Morgan, an associate editor of *GQ* magazine and columnist of this newspaper, to give him a belated makeover.

His decision is sadly like that of a general who decides to change tactic only when outflanked on all sides. While Hague was ambling along in his double-breasted suits and peculiar sports jackets, both the Labour leadership and his rival Michael Portillo were stocking their wardrobes with the best political gear. There may not be much left for poor William, who could end up the boy in class who copies everyone else.

In fairness, it is not his fault

that Labour has stolen a march. The horse had bolted by the time he went looking for the reins.

As long ago as 1990, Neil Kinnock's front-bench team wore City suits at the Blackpool conference. Since then, Labour has discovered the New Wave British tailors, acquiring for its own the look that now defines the country's prosperous middle youth. Tony Blair went to Paul Smith before his last Washington trip, and also frequents Malcolm Levine, a tailor who dresses film stars.

At the suggestion of Dylan Jones, another style journalist, Gordon Brown patronised Timothy Everest, the East End tailor, for his first Budget day suit. When Blair asked where it was from Brown allegedly refused to tell him. Peter Mandelson has sewn up Richard James and Oswald Boateng.

But the remaking of Portillo must have been the greatest blow. While Hague was con-



ducting an ill-judged flirtation with baseball caps, Portillo was selecting casual check shirts and beige slacks. Earlier this year, he told about 50 men in suits at the Institute of Economic Affairs how refreshing it would be to see "people wearing open-neck shirts, perbabs with an Armani jacket".

And having flattened his hair as a gesture of humility, he nonetheless lured Hague up a mountain, knowing full well that the wind would highlight Hague's trichological deficiencies. The contrast between Portillo's waxed jacket and Hague's anorak completed the assassination. As Alan Clark said, Hague looked as if he'd just had chemotherapy.

So it is fair to say that not since 1972, when Sir William Price, the Labour MP for Rugby, addressed the House in his overcoat because his trouser zip had broken, has a politician faced such a wardrobe crisis. Even Michael Foot's black donkey jacket does not seem quite so bad in retrospect.

Morgan has an unenviable task. He dresses in Savile Row suits and silk ties, and lives in secluded gentility off Piccadilly. But he must prepare Hague for an altogether rougher world in which his opponents are prepared to resort to celebrity hairdressers.

Morgan is staying shoom about his plans, but Mark Powell, the funky Soho tailor, says:

"I know John Morgan works with Timothy Everest, so he'll probably go there." There would be a certain poignancy to this: Everest dressed Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible*.

Hague must wish he could turn back the clock. Trevor Royle, an historian and sometime political commentator, notes: "William Pitt was an ugly little chap with a high-pitched voice. He performed well in Parliament at a time when a Parliamentarian was seen only by other parliamentarians. We can't disinvent the apparatus of current politics."

Double-breasted suits and big collars were the young Tories' badge of office when Major was in power, but now that

Labour has had its change of image, he looks like an old man.

Peter York, the image consultant famous for *The Sloane Rangers Handbook*, wonders if Hague isn't simply beyond rescue: "He has not related to his own generation at all; it is a bit late now."

Whatever outward impression he gives, Hague must, behind the scenes, try hard indeed, says Mary Spillane, the managing director of *Colour Me Beautiful*, an image consultancy.

"How televisual a politician is can make or break his/her political career." It almost makes one yearn for Harold Wilson and his Gannex mac.

IMAGE consultants agree that William Hague should stop trying so hard and choose a wardrobe that makes him look comfortable and credible.

Mary Spillane says that Mr Hague should stick to double-breasted suits — the look of John Major's Tory party — to make him appear bigger. "The problem is that if he wears single-breasted, he looks like a beanpole," she says. "With his light colouring, it means he can appear wimpish." She adds that Mr Hague should wear only light, blue-grey or charcoal suits, coloured shirts and warm, golden ties to brighten his fair complexion. His shirt collars should be cutaway to make his neck look wider. "In winter, he should be seen with a camel coat over his shoulder to create more bulk," she concludes.

Susie Faux, the managing director of *Wardrobe Consultancy*, says that Mr Hague should avoid bespoke suits as too conservative and British. She suggests an off-the-peg Ermenegildo Zegna suit, either double-breasted or high-buttoned and single-breasted, to make him appear more modern and European.

"Zegna has beautiful fabrics and modern styling, so he will not look as though he is trying too hard," says Ms Faux. But she adds that Mr Hague should discover his own look, rather than taking advice. "He should look as if his appearance is effortless, the way Tony Blair does now."

Peter York reckons that Mr Hague's aim should be to look neither old-fashioned nor high fashion. "He should look like a decent powerbroker in his early forties, but nothing more specific."

Mr York says that Mr Hague should avoid 1980s-style pinstripes and double-breasted suits. He suggests a visit to a Savile Row tailor for some dark, single-breasted suits and bold ties.

JODY SCOTT

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BROWN'S BACK DOOR

The Chancellor signs Britain up to a socialist EU agenda

Tony Blair has been remarkably successful in embarking the debate both on economic and monetary union, and on Britain's broader strategic aims within the European Union.

brought Herr Lafontaine into confrontation with German industry — and “a new culture of regulation” for public utilities.

Heads' duties over drugs in schools

From Mr Peter Inson Sir, The suggestion by Estelle Morris, School Standards Minister (report, November 17), that head teachers should not automatically expel pupils...

London Tube fares 'unfairly high'

From Mr Ilyd Harrington Sir, You kindly published a letter from me (February 28, 1997) which warned about the damage to the social and economic life of the capital caused by London Transport's high fares (letters, November 16). They were, I said, the highest in Europe.

1,000 years on the back of a stamp

From Dr Hannes W. Kleinke Sir, The Royal Mail's — or is it Professor Black's — view of the past 1,000 years of British history, as represented on the recently launched millennium stamps (report, November 13), is oddly out of balance.

Voting for candidate, not party

From Mr Warwick Cairns Sir, Peter Riddell (article, November 17) says that a problem with the open-list system in elections is that it “encourages candidates of the same party to compete against each other.”

rare opportunity to win a point against a strong Government. Surely, however, it is time for compromise. There are various options between fully open and fully closed lists which are used by our European partners.

LET THE PEOPLE CHOOSE

The Government should abandon closed list elections

Next week the Queen's Speech will be published. It will contain a Bill to abolish the right of hereditary peers to vote in the House of Lords.

should be replaced by parties' choice. In this case, the unelected peers are protecting the power of the electorate. The Government's attempt to distract the debate is a sign of its failure to make a convincing case in favour of closed lists.

Portillo and the euro

From Dr Alan Sked Sir, Michael Portillo is right. The Tory party is now the only one with the political weight to lead the campaign against the euro (report, later editions, November 10; see also report and leading article, November 11). In fact, it is vital that the Tories should win the next election, since otherwise we face the prospect of a referendum on the single currency being weighted in favour of Brussels.

Russian mass grave

From Mr Phil Tomaselli Sir, Your report, “Russian grave may hold our soldiers” (November 10), suggests that “dozens” of British soldiers may lie buried in a mass grave at Kandalaksha, south of Murmansk.

that they were members of the Slav-British Legion, White Russian peasants who enlisted for a variety of reasons in a force that had British officers and NCOs and wore British uniforms. When the British Army withdrew in September 1919 the Red Army quickly broke through their lines and many thousands must have been killed in battle or executed and given a mass burial.

Leaders and led

From Mr D. G. R. Bentliff Sir, Is Mary Ann Sieghart (article, November 6) right to say that those with a younger inner age “follow fashion and would hate to be thought conventional”? Don't the conventional follow, whilst the unconventional lead, fashion?

Register of Masons

From Miss C. M. Newman, QC Sir, The Government's request for members of the judiciary (even the humblest of part-timers) to state whether they are Freemasons (letters, November 2 and 6) was also sent to women.

C for clarity

From Mr Kevin Newson Sir, I have always used the phonetic alphabet for addresses and postcodes as necessary for clarity on the phone, but this is not always appreciated.

Rule of thumb for flu

From Mrs A. J. Wilcock Sir, I have no difficulty in differentiating between a cold and flu (letter, November 6); mothers have colds, fathers have flu.

GRANNY'S MOUSE

The old meet the young in cyberspace

The onset of age is marked by the moment when you realise that your eight-year-old can reprogramme a video recorder more quickly than you.

explored on spreadsheets and desk-top publishing programs put out the latest edition of the parish newsletter.

Assembly plans

From Lord Rogers of Riverside Sir, Your report today on the plan for the Welsh assembly by my practice states that there are “charges of cronyism” as I am a “Labour colleague of the former Prime Minister in the Upper House.”

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Boy dies after rail game... try fire death... Arrow crash... Images delete... access from... thing are... share

From Mr Neil Wats Sir, How about renaming Waterloo Eau de toilette?

From Mr Gerald Vinestock Sir, I don't mind if the French want to rename the Gare du Nord, but why “Fontenoy”? Wasn't he that little Lord Chappy in the book by someone or another?

From Mr Gerald Vinestock Sir, I don't mind if the French want to rename the Gare du Nord, but why “Fontenoy”? Wasn't he that little Lord Chappy in the book by someone or another?





NEWS

Left-wing manifesto for Europe

Britain is to join France, Germany and eight other European Union countries in a left-wing policy manifesto that commits the Government to common cause with the states inside the monetary union.

Uniting in a single manifesto, the social democrat parties that now dominate the EU are to pledge themselves to coordinate economic policies for growth, including a push for harmonising taxes.

Peers again reject closed poll plan

The House of Lords yesterday staged a huge display of defiance against the Government when peers rejected for a fourth time plans to restrict voter choice in the European elections. The peers insisted they had the right to ask the commons to think again.

School battle

Britain's few remaining grammar schools will face an annual battle for survival under government regulations approved by MPs last night.

Drug advice blast

Head teachers yesterday criticised the Government's call for leniency over pupils caught with drugs as Estelle Morris, the Schools Minister, defended her advice not to adopt a "zero tolerance" approach.

Treasure hunt sham

When a man called Stuart Pen-dragon walked into his civic offices and said he was a long-lost brother of Prince Charles who needed permission to dig up a traffic island to find treasure, what did the council chief do? He gave it to him.

Dinosaur skin found

Scientists have for the first time discovered perfectly preserved baby dinosaur skin, fossilised in eggs at an ancient nesting site. The site in Patagonia was evidently used by dinosaurs 70 to 90 million years ago.

Parkinson drug ban

A drug for treating Parkinson's disease has been withdrawn after three patients died of liver disease. The European Commission has requested that member states suspend the use of Tasmir, made by Roche.

Human zoo inquiry

A report in The Times exposing a "human zoo" camp in Thailand, where 21 children from a long-necked Burmese hill tribe were kept on show for tourists, forced a Thai Government inquiry that led to its closure, a northern Thailand court heard.

New Zealand tragedy

A British woman has been swept to her death off a remote stretch of the north-eastern New Zealand coast after she and her husband lost their four-day battle to steer their damaged yacht through stormy seas.

US blamed for unrest

In a blistering attack on the United States for inciting political dissidence, the Malaysian Government said that Washington would shoulder the blame for any further street protests.

Terriers overhaul

Many of Britain's famous regiments, such as the Green Howards, the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters will be cut back in the restructured and reduced Territorial Army announced by George Robertson.

Moulin death claim

Jean Moulin, the French Resistance hero who died after being tortured by the Gestapo in 1943, fell into the hands of the Germans because of bungled American espionage and not resistance treachery.

Silver surfers dominate the Net

Britons are increasingly turning off the television and turning to the home computer, which can now be found in one in four households. Among the keenest are computer users over 60, who have earned the nickname "silver surfers" by spending ten hours a week at the keyboard, three hours longer than average.



More than 163 trees have swapped foliage for foil in the Beyerle Foundation's Wrapped Trees exhibition in Riehen, Switzerland

BUSINESS

Pensions: Shareholders of insurance companies involved in pensions mis-selling should bear a substantial share of compensation costs, says the Treasury Select Committee.

SPORT

Football: Leading clubs have accepted Uefa's proposals for a 32-team European Champions' League, which they want to start next season.

ARTS

Saint George: The actor George Clooney knows how fickle fame and fortune can be - but with his new movie Out of Sight he thinks he has cracked it.

FEATURES

Robotbabes: Making robots look more like babies in need of nurture encourages humans.

MARKETS

The FTSE 100 fell 7.8 to 5502.7. The sterling index rose to 100.9 from 100.8, with the pound rising 0.03 cents to \$1.6758 and 0.48 pence to DM2.972.

THE PAPERS

The deal negotiated by eight state attorneys general and the tobacco industry would do far too little to combat teenage smoking, the primary goal that any legal settlement should advance.

THE HOMES

Street cred: A telling index of change in the housing market is provided by a quiet street in Chelsea.

THE PAPER

The deal negotiated by eight state attorneys general and the tobacco industry would do far too little to combat teenage smoking, the primary goal that any legal settlement should advance.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS Geoff Brown sees Jean Reno (and Robert DeNiro) in 'The Professional', a French crime thriller.

BOOKS

The intriguing history of the sex aid. Plus Elaine Showalter, Gerald Jacobs, Elisabeth Luard.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,952

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 28 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS 1 Travelled round in American ballet (5). 4 Cooks a little plant (6,3). 9 Showing regular patients encountered in poem - good only at the beginning (9). 10 Story that may be used in making a picture (5). 11 Remove Austen's novel (6). 12 Engagement ring composer has on (8). 14 Special port I decant into mixture (9). 16 Longs to protect members of clan (5). 17 Traveller taking turn around end of liner's deck (5). 19 Simple type Society treated with fitness (4,5). 21 Creature with excellent vision and wisdom (5,3). 22 One's powerless to take flight (6). 25 Witness trapping partners in hearing, perhaps (5).

A word search puzzle titled 'Solution to Puzzle No 20,951' with a grid of letters and words to find.

Table with weather conditions for various regions including UK, Ireland, and Europe.

Table with car reports by fax, listing car models and their features.

Table with hours of darkness, showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

Newspapers Support Recycling logo and text.

Quick Clue No 2: Costs £197,000 per day to stay afloat, not state funded (5,8,11.) (See right.)

Forecast section with text and a small weather map showing pressure systems and fronts.

Table with around Britain yesterday, showing temperature and weather conditions for various cities.

Table with abroad, showing weather conditions for various international locations.

Table with highest & lowest, showing temperature ranges for various locations.

NOON TODAY weather forecast section with a map and weather icons.

High Tides section with a map and tide information for various locations.

Table with highest & lowest, showing temperature ranges for various locations.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'Fed cu', 'Advertis back ITV News at', and 'Flying pic for Mickey'.

Handwritten Arabic text: هكذا من الأصل

# THE TIMES

# 2

NOVEMBER 18 1998

RADIO & TV

Preview: Ian Gruffyd returns as C.S. Forrester's naval hero. *Homebrew* (TV, 8pm) Review: Joe Joseph on a intimate glimpse into Saddam's Iraq... Pages 46, 47

OPINION

**Brown's back door**  
The members of the policy, a vital Brown himself ready to sell the EU... Where stands the Prime Minister in the dark? Or in his Chancellor's shadow? Page 19

**Let the people choose**  
Mr. Blair made trust a central theme of the general election. He... and leave the power to choose... individuals they send to the... Parliament... Page 19

**Granny's mouse**  
...when it comes to... megabytes... Page 19

COLUMNS

**SIMON JENKINS**  
...point of the blood... against a man... to let him do so... and America... famous "bomb... Sunday was the... Page 8

**BRONWEN MADDOX**  
...bridge... but the... and the... These... Page 8

**ALAN COREN**  
...and... Page 8

**LETTERS**

**OBITUARIES**

**LETTERS**

**LETTERS**

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INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**ECONOMICS**  
Janet Bush says doomsday danger is not yet averted  
PAGE 27



**ARTS**  
Clare Burt scares up a storm for Sondheim  
PAGES 32-34



**SPORT**  
Hemery assumes position of power in British athletics  
PAGES 37-44

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
Pages 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998

## Fed cuts US rates to 4-year low

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Federal Reserve last night reduced US interest rates to their lowest level in four years in a renewed effort to ward off the impact of the global financial turmoil.

The Fed said it was reducing its key Fed Funds by a quarter point to 4.75 per cent because although the markets had been quieter in recent weeks, "unusual strains remained".

It was the third time the Fed has cut rates in the past six weeks including an emergency quarter-point cut last month. Although the cut had been anticipated it helped Wall Street to recover from early losses.

The move came as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development talked on member countries to reduce interest rates rapidly

to head off the threat of a full-blown global recession.

The OECD claims in its autumn *Economic Outlook* that although there are signs financial markets are stabilising, considerable risks remain. It singles out Japan's inability to revive its moribund economy and the fact that the rebound in world share prices has left markets

looking overvalued again. It also warns the Bank of England against delaying further rate cuts, claiming that the fears about wages pressures have been exaggerated.

The OECD predicted that Britain is facing a sharper economic slowdown than either the Bank or the Treasury are anticipating, but stopped short of forecasting

an outright recession. It predicted that growth next year would slow to 0.8 per cent — compared with a Treasury forecast of 1 to 1.5 per cent — before rebounding to 1.5 per cent in 2000. It is forecasting rates will fall to about 6 per cent by the end of next year and to 5 per cent in 2000.

However, the OECD claimed that Gordon Brown

will still "comfortably" meet his borrowing rules, despite its lower growth predictions.

New data published yesterday confirmed the Chancellor remains on course to post a full-year Budget surplus. Inflation hit its target level for the third consecutive month, although the OECD cautioned that the introduction of the minimum wage

next year could generate fresh inflationary pressures.

The OECD has also sharply downgraded its forecast for global economic growth, although Ignazio Visco, chief economist, said that the chances of a global recession is "certainly much less than the 40 to 50 per cent we were predicting two months ago."

It gave warning that stock

markets are at risk from fresh falls because the recent recovery had "failed to take account of an overvaluation in equity markets". Such a decline could make banks more reluctant to lend money, exacerbating the credit crunch faced by borrowers.

"In the US and in the euro area, monetary policy should remain biased towards easing, as inflation risks have reduced," the OECD said.

However, it warned left-leaning European governments against taking an activist economic stance arguing "there is still a need to reduce public debt to levels sustainable over the longer term."

The OECD expects economic growth in member economies to average 1.7 per cent next year, down from an April forecast of 2.5 per cent. Growth will reach to 2.25 per cent in 2000.

### BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5262.7	(-7.8)
Yield	2.85%	
FTSE All Share	2531.00	(-5.44)
Nikkei	14413.00	(-15.27)
NY Dow Jones	8965.68	(-45.57)
S&P Composite	1132.28	(-3.58)

US-RATE

3-month	5%	(9.74)
Long bond	6.75%	(8.74)
Yield	5.26%	(5.30%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6.75%	(9.74)
Libor long gilt	115.49	(115.15)

STERLING

New York	1.8773	(1.8750)
London	1.8773	(1.8750)
DM	1.6770	(1.6755)
DM	2.7878	(2.7824)
SF	1.5742	(1.5730)
SP	2.3027	(2.2990)
Yen	202.70	(200.70)
E Index	100.79	(100.8)

Inflation steadies, page 24

## Advertisers back ITV on News at Ten

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

THIRTY of the UK's largest advertisers, which together spend more than £800 million a year on television, have put their weight behind the plan by the ITV companies to move *News at Ten*.

The advertisers, including the biggest names in the business such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, Mars, Kraft Jacobs Suchard, Renault, and Safeway, have written to the Independent Television Commission in support of ITV.

The ITV companies have asked for the right to move the main ITV evening news, and the ITC will take the decision tomorrow.

The advertisers have written to the ITC expressing their "strong support" for the ITV request to be able to move the main peak-time news. They argue that the ITV companies must have greater freedom over their schedule as the competition for audiences becomes more intense.

The main reason for moving *News at Ten* and replacing it with news programmes at 6.30pm and 11pm is to end the present situation that means longer dramas or films broadcast after the 9pm threshold for more adult programmes are cut in half by the news.

The ITV companies have argued

puts them at a disadvantage when competing for viewers against new entrants to the TV market such as Channel 5 or BSkyB.

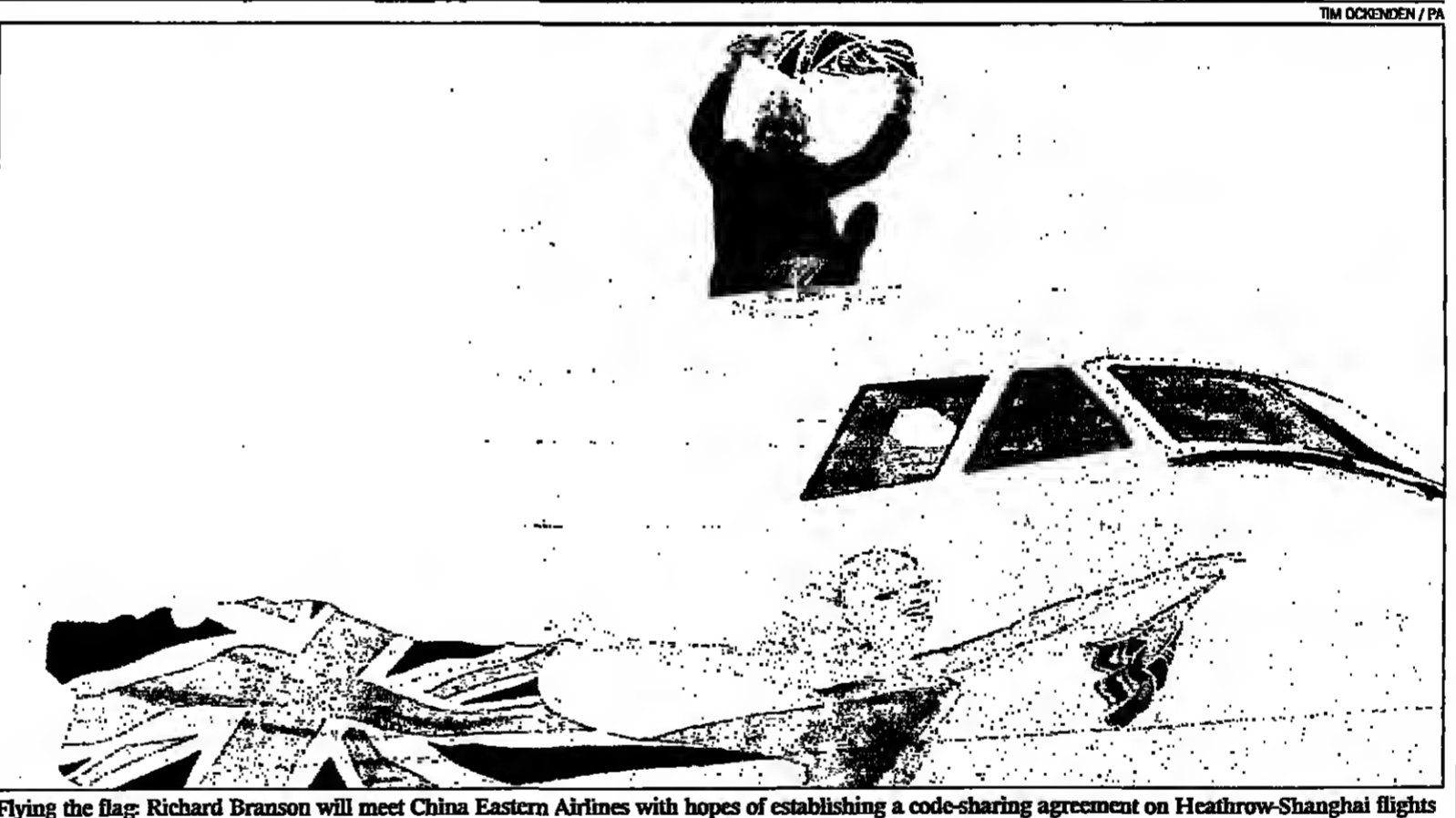
Many of the advertisers are angry at the number of politicians who have intervened in the debate on the side of keeping *News at Ten* where it is.

John Hooper, director of ISBA, the advertisers' trade association, said last night: "The last thing most people want is for the news to be where it is interrupting their evening's entertainment."

Mr Hooper believes that across all channels there is plenty of news available and that ITV must have the freedom to take the steps necessary to increase its audiences.

Advertisers have been complaining of a rise of nearly 50 per cent in the cost of advertising airtime over the past five years. "We [advertisers] fund the commercial television system yet no one listens to our point of view," Mr Hooper added.

The likelihood is that the ITC will decide, despite the political pressure it has faced, to allow *News at Ten* to move with conditions attached — such as news headlines at 10pm, the reporting of important breaking news stories and a heavy-weight bulletin at 11pm.



Flying the flag: Richard Branson will meet China Eastern Airlines with hopes of establishing a code-sharing agreement on Heathrow-Shanghai flights

## Virgin sets sights on Shanghai

By ADAM JONES

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Atlantic believes it has the upper hand over its arch-rival, British Airways, in the battle to be the first British carrier to fly directly from Heathrow to Shanghai.

Only one of the airlines can win regulatory approval for the route. Mr Branson will meet Li Zhongming, the president of China Eastern Airlines, in China today to try and seal a crucial alliance for Vir-

gin. The two airlines recently came to a provisional agreement to co-operate on the Shanghai route as long as they can both secure regulatory approval from their respective authorities in the UK and China.

Today's meeting could lead to this being formalised as a straightforward code-sharing agreement, with each airline operating the service on different days.

BA already runs a service between London and Beijing, a route Virgin also wants to

fly. The two airlines will present their cases for the Shanghai licence at a public hearing organised by the Civil Aviation Authority on December 10. A decision is expected a few weeks after the hearing.

Virgin suffered a regulatory knockback in similar circumstances when it wanted to fly to Moscow with a Russian carrier as its partner. A Virgin spokesman said it would be a "watershed" if it won approval for the Shanghai service.

Mr Branson said yesterday

that Virgin hoped to be flying the Shanghai route by early summer 1999. He said there were "superb" opportunities in the Far East. Virgin is currently building a chain of cinemas in Japan. He said: "The cost of property there is at its lowest level for 20 years."

Mr Branson was also bullish about current trading at Virgin Atlantic. He said that the UK economy still felt "buoyant".

Branson's fit, page 77

## Flying pickets in UK for Mickey Mouse row

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FLYING pickets returned to the streets yesterday. No, not the industrial warriors of bygone years who packed into a transit van to trail from one grim dispute to another. Perish the thought in these times of workplace partnership.

Yesterday's flying pickets took their mission quite literally, boarding a transatlantic flight to London to mount their demonstration. Their target: Mickey Mouse. Or more correctly, ABC News, the Walt Disney subsidiary. Mickey is getting a bit of a hammering from the unions in the US over ABC's use of casual labour and the lack of information about a medical plan.

ABC's answer to the conflict — which has left it with a crippling lack of technical staff — has been to switch the broadcast of many news programmes to London.

Orlando Burgos, of the Communication Workers Union of America, said: "To use another

country as a basis for scab operations is appalling." A spokeswoman for ABC said the company would continue to use London for as long as necessary. The flying pickets were offered solidarity yesterday by the UK's Communication Workers Union.

But Mickey Mouse could soon be removed from his uncomfortable role as union hate figure. Both sides in the US are set to return to the negotiating table after intervention from the Government.

The dispute has won support from stars, including Whoopi Goldberg, the actress, and Tony Bennett, the singer.

ALAN WELLS

## Shareholders 'should pay for mis-selling'

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS of insurance companies involved in pensions mis-selling should bear a substantial share of compensation costs, according to the all-party Treasury Select Committee.

This would encourage better management in future, the MPs said in their report on mis-selling, published yesterday.

The bill to clear up the mis-selling of pensions in the 1980s and 1990s could eventually be as high as £11 billion.

The committee also called for clarification on how and to whom surplus assets in long-term life funds, known as "orphans", should be distributed.

Several insurance companies that want to release these surpluses are currently negotiating with the Department of Trade and Industry.

Giles Radice, chairman of the committee, said he was not calling for the "whole burden" to be borne by shareholders. He did, however, welcome

the decision to allow policyholders to complain to the proposed Financial Services Ombudsman about the size of bonuses attached to their policies.

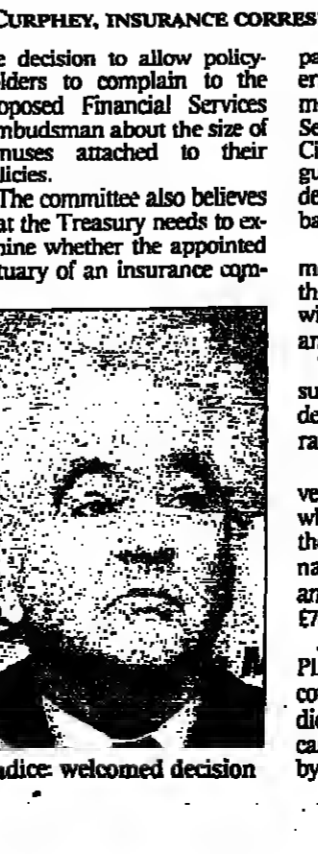
The committee also believes that the Treasury needs to examine whether the appointed actuary of an insurance company should have greater powers. The committee recommended that the Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City super-watcher, develop guidelines to reduce excessive dependence on commission-based sales.

It said that there should be a mechanism in place to check that salesmen have complied with the rules of selling before any commission is paid.

The current regulation of insurance, it said, was "ill-designed, little-known and rarely exercised".

Meanwhile, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which will be integrated into the FSA, has taken disciplinary action against 20 firms and issued fines totalling £76,000.

Joe Palmer, chairman of the PIA, gave warning that firms could face hefty fines if they did not clear up "priority" cases of pensions mis-selling by the end of this year.



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card 'tests' rest rates

card 'tests' rest rates... The price of credit cards is...

timistic

timistic... The outlook for the market is optimistic...

obs warning

obs warning... Observers warn of a market slump...

signs chief

signs chief... Signs of recovery are visible...

ar head cashes

ar head cashes... The head of the company has cashed...

at work

at work... The team is working hard...

alled Sage

alled Sage... The Sage project is progressing...

Lottery winner seeks no publicity

The businessmen running Camelot face an unusual challenge. They must strive to present themselves as quite hopeless at making profits.

The figures over which the company still seems so embarrassed are far from outrageous. At less than 1p in the pound, Camelot is managing to squeeze out of its customers about a tenth of the margin that Marks & Spencer manages.

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

producers are in a bit of a jam. At current oil prices, no one is making much of a profit. This is bad for the Government, which likes to tax their profits, but it is also bad for jobs and, in particular, Scottish jobs.

just enjoyed a record quarter, it looks particularly strange. Having stuck with the firm while its prematurely bearish stance cost it dear, jumping ship now, just when the market is seeing things the P&D way, appears perverse.

Vodafone predicts mobile shortage over Christmas

VODAFONE, the UK's largest mobile telephone group, gave warning yesterday that there could be a shortage of phones for Christmas because of demand boosted by tariff cuts and pay-as-you-go deals.



Chris Gent, chief executive, spoke of "storming growth" in the mobile phone market

BOC to raise £100m from continental sale

BOC, the industrial gases group that is in the middle of a wide-ranging shake-up to cut costs, is expected to raise another £100 million from the sale of businesses in Germany and the Benelux countries.

First profits fall for Camelot

CAMELOT, the National Lottery operator that has previously been criticised for making too much profit, has seen its profits fall for the first time in its history (see Commentary, this page).

De La Rue suffers interim slump

DE LA RUE, the troubled banknote printer, yesterday vowed to hold on to its 26 per cent stake in Camelot, the National Lottery operator, as it reported an 81 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £7.8 million during the six months to September 30.

Energis considers mobile licence bid

ENERGIS, the telecoms group controlled by the National Grid, is in talks with possible partners to bid for a third generation mobile licence.

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# Fall in consumer confidence hits Northern Foods

By ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN FOODS, the supplier of prepared foods to Marks & Spencer and other supermarket grocers, sent a shiver through the food producing sector yesterday by warning of weakening consumer confidence.

The group also said that the crucial Christmas trading was late to start.

Lord Haskins of Skidby, the long-time Labour supporter who chairs the group, said that the sales trend had softened in the second quarter compared to the first, and that the drift continued in October and November.

Marks & Spencer takes about one third of the foods produced by Northern. Lord Haskins refused to comment on any possible effects on Northern of the current board power play at M&S.

However, he said that the retailer's plans to increase the

amount of its space it dedicates to food ought to bolster Northern's prospects.

Shares in Northern fell nearly 8 per cent yesterday from 167½p to 155p but others in the sector also felt the chill. Hillsdown fell 5½p to 85p; United Biscuits slipped 13p to 237p and Hazlewood Foods lost 9p, or nearly 7 per cent, to close at 125½p.

The food producers' sector index closed down 2 per cent on a day the FTSE All Share average gained ground.

The bleak trading environment undermined profits at Northern Foods in the six months to September 30. The company made pre-tax profits of £40.2 million against £42 million in the comparable period last year.

However, the direct cause of the profits fall was higher interest charges. Money borrowed to fund acquisition ex-

pansion and the purchase of capital equipment sent debt levels to £206 million from £150 million. The interest bill climbed to £8.1 million from £2.5 million.

The harsher outlook on the second half of the year also prompted analysts to cut their forecasts for full-year profits. Consensus opinion had been that Northern would make about £101 million in the year to March 31. After yesterday's news, forecasts are that Northern will make only about £95 million.

Last year profits, restated to take account of the demerger of Express Dairies, the milk business, were £83 million.

Earnings per share in the half year were 5.19p against 5.55p. The half-time dividend is lifted, however, 4 per cent to 2.6p.

Tempus, page 26



Jo Stewart, Northern Foods chief executive, left, with Sean Christie, finance director

# C&W lifted by Optus debut in Australia

By CHRIS AYRES

CABLE & WIRELESS, the British cable and telecoms group, yesterday saw its stake in C&W Optus valued at AS4.8 billion (£1.3 billion) after the Australian mobile phone group's trading debut on the stock market.

The company's shares finished their first day on the market at AS2.65, a 45 per cent premium to their retail price when the company launched its flotation.

The flotation of C&W Optus, in which C&W owns a 52 per cent stake, was possible only because Dick Brown, chief executive of the British company, managed to persuade the Australian Government to change the law on foreign ownership of telecoms groups.

Yesterday's strong performance propelled C&W Optus firmly into the ranks of Australia's top 15 companies with a market capitalisation of AS9.2 billion.

"It's come on at a pretty strong price, there's no doubt

about that," Tim Ryan, an analyst at Credit Suisse Asset Management, said.

The flotation gave a boost to C&W, which has invested about AS3 billion in Optus since it was set up in January 1992. Some analysts estimated that the British company made a nominal profit of about AS1.8 billion on the float. Shares in C&W rose on the London stock market by 3½p to 69½p.

C&W Optus's success also underlined the change in emphasis of the Australian stock market from the natural resources sector to finance and telecoms. The listing of C&W Optus comes a year to the day after the flotation of Australia's largest telecoms group — Telstra Corporation.

Telstra, which is still partly owned by the Australian Government, achieved a 37 per cent premium on its first day of trading, and has doubled its share price over the past year.

## Barlow considers move to London

By SAIED SHAH

BARLOW, the South African industrial group, said that it would consider moving its primary listing to London, joining a growing tide of firms seeking to move from the Johannesburg exchange.

However, the company, which has a secondary listing in London, emphasised that no decision had been made yet and that there was no timetable for any move.

Tony Phillips, chief executive, said: "Given that 57 per cent of our profit comes from outside South Africa, we would be irresponsible to our shareholders if we are not looking at it... we have not made any application to the Government and the Reserve Bank as yet, but we will consider it."

He said there was enormous potential to expand the group's business overseas.

Mark Drewell, head of corporate communications, said a London listing "made sense" in terms of raising finance but he added that Barlow had no need for additional funds at the present time.

The 57 per cent non-South African contribution to Barlow's attributable profits, for the year to September 30, was up from 37 per cent the previous year.

Pre-tax profit for the period was 1071 billion rand (about £107 million), down from R1.232 billion. Turnover was up 19 per cent at R20.538 billion. An increased number of shares in issue meant earnings per share declined by 3 per cent to 321.5 cents. A final dividend of 88 cents was declared, making a total dividend of 124 cents for the year, unchanged from last time.

## FirstGroup accelerates 27% despite disruptions

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

FIRSTGROUP, the passenger transport operator, saw its profits jump 27 per cent in the first half, despite severe disruptions on its train services in the North West.

Moir Lockhead, chief executive, said that the "significant operational difficulties" on its First North Western services, which attracted the attention of Opra, the Rail Regulator, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, had kept passenger growth to about 4 per cent in the first half, against a forecast of 6 per cent. He said that by early September operating performance was restored.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to September 30 rose to £38.1 million (£30 million), reflecting the group's high level of acquisitions. Diluted earnings per share rose from 7.2p to 7.7p. The company is paying an interim dividend of 2.5p (2.2p).

Mr Lockhead said that its first overseas operation, running buses in Hong Kong, had been launched successfully and that the company is looking for other overseas opportunities.



Lockhead: successful launch

## Enterprise sales defy flat market

By DOMINIC WALSH

ENTERPRISE INNS, the fast-growing tenanted pub operator, yesterday defied the gloom pervading the beer sector with an 8 per cent jump in like-for-like sales in the year to September 30.

Its optimism was in stark contrast to Mansfield Brewery, where comparable sales in its tenanted estate were down 1.3 per cent and were 7.3 per cent lower in its managed pubs arm. Mansfield's profits also took a £1.2 million hit from the economic crisis in Russia, the biggest export market for its beer.

Enterprise, which has doubled in size to more than 1,800 pubs over the past two years, reported a 56 per cent rise in profits before tax and exceptional tax to £22.5 million from turnover up from £60.3 million to £80.8 million. Earnings per share reached 26½p (20.7p) and a final dividend of 5.6p makes a total of 34p (7½p).

There was a charge of £3.3 million from the integration of Gibbs Mew, which it acquired in February, including about 50 redundancies.

Ted Tuppen, chief executive, attributed the strong like-for-like sales growth to a focus on tenanted and leased pubs,

without the "distractions" of brewing or managed houses.

"We haven't discovered any magic. We're just doing our job effectively," he added.

Mr Tuppen said that the group, which recently bought Mayfair Taverns for £37.4 million, continued to seek acquisitions. He declined to comment on possible targets, but is understood to have decided against bidding for the tenanted estates put up for sale by Vaux and Greenalls.

A less upbeat note was sounded by Mansfield, which yesterday reported a 4 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in the half year to September 26. Excluding the Russian problems, pre-tax profits were up 6.7 per cent to £12.3 million from turnover 1.6 per cent higher at £89.5 million.

A dire summer and faltering consumer confidence hit trading at its pubs and contributed to a 1.9 per cent decline in beer volumes. Sir David White, Mansfield's chairman, said there were "not yet any indications of market improvements at home or abroad".

Earnings per share were 3.7 per cent lower at 12.39p, although it has lifted the interim dividend to 2.5p (2.35p).

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كذا من الاصل

كندا من الأصل

Small losses at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing various alcoholic beverage stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BANKS

Table listing various bank stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing various brewery, pub, and restaurant stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing various building materials stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CHEMICALS

Table listing various chemical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing various construction stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing various distributor stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table listing various diversified industrial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

ELECTRICITY

Table listing various electricity stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table listing various electronic and electrical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

ENGINEERING

Table listing various engineering stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

INSURANCE

Table listing various insurance stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing various engineering vehicle stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing various food manufacturer stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing various healthcare stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table listing various household goods and textile stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing various leisure and hotel stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

MEDIA

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MINING

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PROPERTY

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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TRANSPORT

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WATER

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table listing various alternative investment market stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing various retailer and food stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing various general retailer stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing various pharmaceutical stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing various short-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

LONGS (over 15 years)

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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table listing various medium-term bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

INDEX-LINKED

Table listing various index-linked bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

OIL & GAS

Table listing various oil and gas stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing various other financial stocks with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

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RETAILERS, FOOD

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SUPPORT SERVICES

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PRINTING & PAPER

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ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

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RETAILERS, GENERAL

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SHORTS (under 5 years)

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LONGS (over 15 years)

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MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

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INDEX-LINKED

Table listing various index-linked bonds with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, and P/E ratio.

Advertisement for 'my bell' featuring a large image of a bell and text describing the product and its benefits.

Small text at the bottom left corner, possibly a page number or additional publication information.

**US media company to buy TMBG**

By MANUS COSTELLO

THE speculation surrounding The Media Business Group, the advertising planner, came to an end yesterday as the company announced that a £27.9 million cash offer has been agreed, making millionaires of its founder and its managing director.

The bid comes through Mediacom/TMBG, a newly formed company that will become a subsidiary of Grey Advertising, the US media group.

The offer of 107p per share represents a premium of 40 per cent on Monday's closing price of 76½p. Shares of Media Business Group have been trading erratically, peaking at 134½p in March following the announcement of takeover talks, but falling back in early October when the deal was called off.

Stephen Allan, managing director, said that the volatility of the equities market had disrupted the deal in October but that "the break in negotiations made both parties realise this was a good move".

Mr Allan holds 9 per cent of the company and stands to make more than £2.5 million from the deal.

Allan Rich, who founded the company in 1975 and is currently chairman and chief executive, holds 33 per cent of shares. He will make more than £8.5 million from the deal.

The Media Business Group plans and buys advertising time and space in various media, and has clients including Ikea and Tag Heuer.

Last year the group showed pre-tax profits of £2.1 million on a turnover of £171 million.

Analysts said that the offer had been expected at up to 120p per share earlier in the year, but that the agreed price was "sensible".

**Alstom slides on fears of shrinking Asian markets**

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

SHARES in Alstom, the Anglo-French engineer formerly known as GEC Alsthom, fell by almost 9 per cent yesterday after the company fuelled market fears of a shrinking Asian order book.

The news came as the group announced its first results since it floated in June. Pierre Bilger, president, gave warning that orders for goods with a short-term cycle were likely to slow over the next two years and the

number of tenders for larger and longer-term contracts, notably in Asia, would also fall.

Some 21 per cent of Alstom's export business is with Asia, and some analysts have been concerned that this could be hit by the depreciation of Asian currencies.

The warning came on the back of the announcement of increased net income for the six months to September 30 up 15 per cent to 120 million euros (£85.7 million) on sales down 2 per cent to 6.35 billion

euros. However, when figures from Cegelec, the French engineering business bought at the time of the company's flotation are stripped out, Alstom's first-half results were 12 per cent lower.

Mr Bilger predicted that net income for the full year would be in the range of 285 to 315 million euros, at the lower end of analysts' expectations.

He said the company was preparing itself for falling orders by reinforcing and accelerating its cost-reduction pro-

gramme. Future restructuring plans include possible redundancies in the UK and abroad following on from the 5,000 workers already laid off over the past year.

"We are aiming to double the group's US sales to some 2 billion euros and are not excluding further acquisitions there," he said.

Alstom is active in industrial engineering such as power stations, high-speed trains and metro systems.

The company's new orders, which usually do not generate

revenue for two to three years, rose to 7.27 billion euros from 6.40 billion euros last year, boosting the total order book to 16.02 billion euros or 17.3 months of work.

The company yesterday also announced a contract worth over 200 million euros to design and supply two 900-megawatt boilers for a new power plant outside Shanghai, China.

Shares in the Alstom, which is quoted in London, Paris and New York, yesterday closed at Fr137.8 (€14.72).

**P&S sees no sign of recession**

By RAYMOND SNOODY  
MEDIA EDITOR

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers, the regional newspaper and convenience store group, said yesterday it saw no sign of recession in its business and advertising revenues were continuing to rise.

Charles Brims, chief executive said yesterday: "We have not seen any sign in any of our businesses of an economic downturn." P&S is, however, less dependent than most regional newspaper groups on classified job advertisements.

The company announced a 62 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £9.6 million in the six months to September 26.

Operating profits from regional newspapers rose by 37 per cent to £6.3 million on revenues up 13 per cent to £35.1 million. Contract printing revenue rose by a third to £7 million.

One Stop Community Stores, P&S's convenience store business, increased operating profits by 26 per cent to £2.5 million on revenue up 18 per cent to £66.2 million.

The company, which already has 201 One Stop Stores, plans to open at least 40 more a year for the foreseeable future.



Challenger: Martin Jay, who revealed that turnover at Vosper's support services arm rose by 78 per cent in the past six months

**Strong orders boost Vosper**

VOSPER THORNYCROFT, the warship builder, yesterday said it had enough orders to guarantee work for the next two years as the company diversifies out of its traditional business.

Vosper's order book has jumped from £163 million in March to £653 million, supporting both work in support services and shipbuilding.

Support services, which works on military outsourcing contracts, is worth more than £400 million.

Vosper, whose chief executive is Martin Jay, is aiming for support services to bring in half of the company's revenue. At present it delivers 43 per cent of sales after turnover in the division increased 78 per cent in the six months to

September 30 compared with the same period last year.

Vosper is looking to spend up to £50 million on new businesses which would fit in with its drive to forge a broader company. Industry experts believe a sale of Vickers's marine propulsion operation could be possible after Vickers sold Rolls-Royce cars and amid consolidation in the in-

dustry. Vosper has also said it would work with other companies in joint initiatives.

In the half year it increased pre-tax profits by 7 per cent to £14.8 million with earnings per share rising 8 per cent to 30½p. The interim dividend, payable on January 13, was lifted 9 per cent to 9p.

Tempus, page 26

**BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

**Alusuisse in talks with German group**

ALUSUISSE-LONZA Holding, the Swiss aluminium, packaging and chemicals maker, yesterday confirmed it was in talks with Viag, the German conglomerate, on some kind of co-operation. There has been speculation that Viag, which has a market value of about £12 billion, may make a £5 billion offer for Alusuisse. These discussions have involved varying degrees of co-operation, and have not resulted in any concrete agreement. Alusuisse, which also calls itself Algroup, said Viag has a core energy, utility business but is also a telecommunications provider and has industrial activities in aluminium, packaging and chemicals. Algroup has been seen as vulnerable since last February when it was disclosed that Martin Ebner, Switzerland's best-known corporate raider, had bought a 6.3 per cent stake.

**Good growth at Rebus**

REBUS, the IT applications and services company, yesterday said that it was continuing to generate excellent growth as it announced pre-tax profits up 32 per cent to £3.7 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover was up 19 per cent to £48.23 million. Earnings per share were 2.37p (1.96p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 0.77p (0.70p). Harold Cotnam, chairman, said that the company would stick to its strategy of increasing its five divisions and had no plans for any large acquisitions.

**HW remains bullish**

HW GROUP, the specialist recruitment consultancy that floated in June, yesterday reported a 56 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £1.9 million for the six months to September 30. The company said: "Despite economic uncertainty, trading overall remains buoyant. We view the likelihood of skills shortages disappearing as a very remote possibility." HW Group said gross fee income was up 56.2 per cent to £27.6 million. Basic earnings per share were 5.8p (6.5p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 1p.

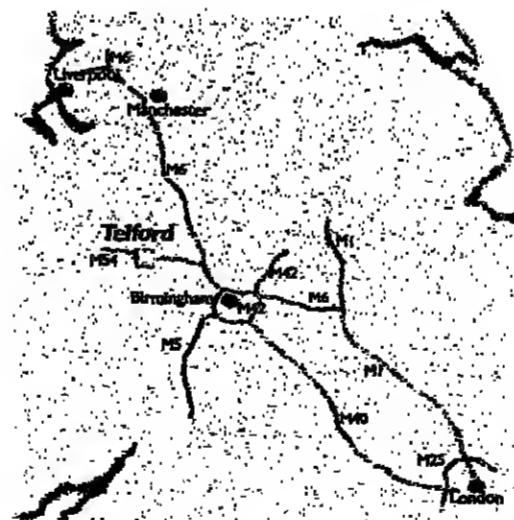
**Helical Bar on the up**

HELICAL BAR, the property developer, yesterday reported profits up 24 per cent to £8.2 million for the six months to September 30, with turnover little changed at £60.2 million (£60.1 million). The company said that while financial market turmoil had meant "the outlook for rental growth has undoubtedly deteriorated", it did present the chance to buy opportunistically. In the first half, net rental income was 5 per cent higher at £9.0 million. The dividend was raised to 4p from 3.5p, with earnings per share up 51 per cent to 25.2p.

**Great Portland ahead**

GREAT PORTLAND ESTATES, the property developer, said yesterday that conditions in the markets in which it operates had not deteriorated, despite world economic problems. The company said it expects to report second-half results broadly in line with those in the first half. Great Portland saw net rental income increase 8 per cent to £5.9 million in the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profits jumped to £28.4 million from £15.4 million last time. Earnings per share were 5.7p (3.3p) and the company declared an interim dividend of 3p (2.9p).

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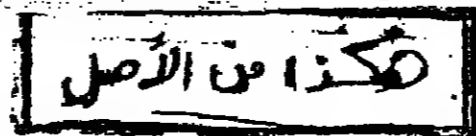
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998

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MUSIC  
Itzhak Perlman  
excels at  
the Barbican  
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# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE  
Into the  
Woods, into  
the Donmar  
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Fit as

## Top dog with an eye on the downside

Actor George Clooney has a novel way of dealing with fame — he assumes it won't last. **Martyn Palmer reports**

George Clooney has a reputation as a regular guy. Take the time he bleached his hair blond after losing a basketball game. "The next morning I tried colouring it back and it was impossible," he says. "It was like every colour in the world. I was in the chair for six hours and when it was finished my hair was calico."

somewhere going: "I was very famous! Everyone liked me! I was the sexiest man alive!" His pessimistic attitude has led him to be extremely careful with his millions: "I stick my money in the bank. I put it there and watch it."

went wrong. Then Foley breaks out and takes a federal marshal (Lopez) hostage. In a key scene, both are spooned together in the boot of a getaway car and the attraction, if somewhat unlikely, is instant and convincing. While Clooney's pairing with more high-profile actresses, such as Kidman and Pfeiffer, did not ignite, this time the onscreen chemistry works. "It's essential that it works," says Clooney. "But you can't plan for it because it comes down to luck."

'At the time ER took off I was 34 and had eight failed TV shows behind me'

And what about the love-making scenes he shot with his co-star Jennifer Lopez in his new film, *Out of Sight*? Clooney managed to ease the usual tension by cracking jokes before and after the cameras were rolling. "George likes to keep things light," Lopez says. "Filming those scenes is weird and can be difficult, but with George it's a lot easier... That man is fun."

Yet it would be wrong to assume that the 37-year-old actor is coasting through life. When it comes to his career Clooney is serious, and seriously trying to find out where, exactly, he fits into the Hollywood scheme of things.

Michelle Pfeiffer and *Batman and Robin*. None lived up to box-office expectations and *Batman* took a critical mauling. "I think I buried that franchise," he says with admirable honesty. "I doubt very much that they will bring it back."

Clooney is now finishing his last full series as a regular on *ER*. He will return for guest appearances in future, but he feels he has honoured his commitment to the show and now is the time to move on. "I love those guys," he says. "We have a great time and I don't want to sever all my connections. But the show will probably run for another eight or nine years and they need new blood; they have to keep reinventing it or it will die."

He is, however, keen to point out that although *ER* made him a star, he had certainly served his time before being cast as Dr Doug Ross. Born in Kentucky and raised in Ohio, he drifted into acting after college. When he first arrived in Hollywood, in the early 1980s, Clooney found out for himself how tough the business could be. There were pilots for TV shows that mostly failed to make it to a series and films, such as *Grizzly II* and *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, that hardly set the movie world on fire. "At the time *ER* took off I was 34, had eight failed TV shows behind me and I had been working in the business for 13 or 14 years."

He is also aware of just how fickle fame and fortune can be. He may be flavour of the month right now — or rather, flavour of the past four years since he joined the hit television series, *ER* — but according to Clooney that will not last. He learnt that lesson the hard way, as he struggled to make the break early in his career. And, importantly, from observing two members of his own family — his father Nick, a TV news anchorman who found himself out of a job after being built up as a small-town celebrity, and his aunt, the 1950s singer Rosemary Clooney, who lost much of her fortune through bad investments.

Now, he feels, he should concentrate on smaller budget, character-driven films. *Out of Sight*, although a studio production, felt like an independent movie, he says, and director Steven Soderbergh was allowed to work the way he wanted without interference from above. Clooney feels the result is his best film to date.

Today he lives happily in Hollywood with his girlfriend, the French law student Celine Balitran, 26. They have no plans to marry — Clooney was married once before, for three years, to the actress Talia Balsam — but are perfectly happy sharing his nine-bedroom mansion, complete with basketball court. "I like it in Los Angeles. This is where I found all my friends; where I found success and where I've been treated very well."

"If you are lucky you get a ten-year run and if you are really lucky you get a 20-year run. But there aren't many Paul Newmans out there, you know, 70-year-old guys who still get the best scripts. Most of the time you are on a ranch

*Out of Sight* opened in America in the summer and did reasonably well at the box office. Perhaps more importantly for Clooney, the critics loved it. This was a performance that proved he could deliver on the big screen. Clooney plays Jack Foley, a failed bank robber serving a long stretch after his latest hold-up

"I feel more comfortable about my choices now," he says. "Even though every one of the first few projects I did while I was doing *ER* was a great break for me, *Out of Sight* was the first one that was about me sitting and waiting for a great project. The payoff is that it's a great movie."



Is there life after *ER*? George Clooney appears to have cracked it with *Out of Sight*, released in Britain next week

## A live and kicking tradition

Nigel Williamson gets into the swing of the Jewish Music Festival

Klezmer, the Jewish music of Eastern Europe almost wiped out during the Holocaust, today has an appeal that reaches far beyond its traditional cultural ghetto. That it survived at all was mostly due to Jewish émigrés to America who got out before Hitler destroyed their communities, and a few brave souls who kept the music alive as an underground phenomenon in the Soviet Union, despite its suppression by the Communist authorities.

The clarinetist Gregori Schechter comes from the latter tradition, having emigrated from Kazakhstan to Israel in 1987 before settling in Britain. Halfway through the ninth London International Jewish Music Festival, which runs until the end of the month and includes 30 concerts, plus dance and film events, workshops, lectures and exhibitions, Schechter has proved himself one of klezmer's most charismatic stars.

Last week his *Klezmer Rhapsody* for clarinet and orchestra, specially commissioned for the festival by the Jewish Musical Heritage Trust, was premiered at the Barbican. Sandwiched between works by two great Jewish composers, Gershwin and Bernstein, the concerto married traditional melodies (in which somewhere during the last century the clarinet replaced the violin as the principal instrument) with lush orchestral arrangements. Counterpoised against a marvellously sympathetic performance by the Oxford Philomusica, Schechter's clarinet conveyed the full gamut of human emotion, sometimes melancholic and sobbing, at other times uplifting as it picked up the giddy tempi of Yiddish dances.

This week Schechter took over Islington's Union Chapel without the orchestra but with his five-piece Klezmer Festival Band. Drawing upon the same musical roots as the concerto, this was the party version, and it was not long before he had the audience on its feet doing a traditional Yiddish circle dance around the pews. The band played mostly dance music featuring the different tempi of the *Freylekh*, the *bulgar* and the *shira* — otherwise known as fast, very fast and furious.

Between numbers Schechter wove fascinating stories about the music's provenance (the tune 7:40, he told us, was named after the timing of a famous bank robbery in Odessa) and, although on both nights his audience was predominantly Jewish, his style and panache easily enabled him to reach out to a more diverse audience.

The London International Jewish Music Festival runs until Nov 29. Information from the Jewish Music Heritage Trust (0181-909 3535)

## Rapt in vivid sound colours

If Morrissey was the king of indie during the 1980s, David Gedge was the prince. His band the Wedding Present counterpointed the grand romanticism of the Smiths with an earthier, kitchen sink schtick.



POP  
Whelan's Dublin

But while the sovereignty of Gedge's songsmithery is as apparent now as it was back then, the paucity of the crowd in Whelan's bar last Friday night suggests that increasingly fewer subjects are pledging allegiance.

*Va Va Voom* sneaking into the shops during the summer almost unnoticed. Lyrically, the same scenarios are played out — Gedge castigating girlfriend over her infidelity, Gedge apologising to girlfriend for his — but musically Cinerama are wide-screen Technicolor where the Wedding Present are plain old black and white, with two keyboards and a flute striving to

create the lush ultra-pop normally associated with bands such as the Lightning Seeds. But then Gedge has rarely stood still: the Wedding Present's major label debut was a 10in LP of Ukrainian folk music, and 1991's superb *Seamsters* saw them work with Steve Albini and go grunge. But Gedge's new incarnation adds another string to his stylistic bow, with songs like the venomous *Have Me Next*, though, with its litigating flute and airy synth melodics, is perhaps more representative.

dians on stage. Cinerama are officially a duo — Gedge's partner, Sally Murrell, is adept at keyboards, harmonies and, on the slowly captivating *Ears*, lead vocals. *Hard, Fast And Beautiful*, though, is one of a number of songs which have graduated from the Wedding Present school of guitar wig-outs, although there are no actual Wedding Present songs in the set.

And, as usual, there are no encores, giving Gedge more time to sign T-shirts after the gig for the small but loyal army of serious-minded indie veterans.

NICK KELLY

THE climax to the London Jazz Festival, a series of concerts performed by French musicians under the umbrella title *Vagues Nouvelles*, might have been specifically designed to counter the notion that the presence of substantial quantities of so-called "world music" in the festival's programming was an indication of how impoverished jazz had become. Jazz has always welcomed cross-pollination, and the contemporary French scene is one of the most hospitable — and consequently one of the most vibrant — in the world.

## Heavy on the Gallic

JAZZ

The French contingent was spearheaded by guitarist Nguyen Le, born in Paris of Vietnamese parents. Le is as thoroughly imbued with the raw power and improvisational fluency of Jimi Hendrix as with the filigree delicacy and formal poise of his parents' musical traditions, so the music resulting from the combination is utterly beguiling, with unrestrained guitar, trumpet and saxophone solos soaring over a dainty web of softly tinkling strings and gentle percussion.

Tinkling strings — this time from the Breton harp of Kristina Noguez — also featured strongly in her concert with British reeds player John Surman. His ability to blend one of the purest soprano sounds in the music with the quietest of instruments stood him in good stead when combining with Noguez's subtle virtuosity.

The blending perceptible in the music of violinist Dominique Pifarely and pianist François Couturier was intramusical — between jazz and contemporary classical music — rather than intercultural. Touching on bases ranging from free jazz through to the most strict notation that demanded performances of thrilling precision, quick-wittedness and elegance, their music was at once formal and passionate, supple, sparkling and exquisite.

As an embodiment of eclecticism and vibrancy, however, the festival's concluding attraction, the trio comprising reedsman Louis Sclavis, bassist Henri Texier and drummer Aldo Romano — was hard to beat. The band's music combined all the wild improvisational energy of the best of contemporary jazz with the sheer vitality and punch of a power trio.

CHRIS PARKER

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# Fit as the finest fiddles

**MUSIC: Richard Morrison**  
welcomes two revelatory books about the great violin-makers

The words "Strad" and "priceless" go together as naturally as Yehudi and Menuhin. True, no musical instrument has yet broken through the million-pound barrier at auction (£947,000 is the record). But the finest of the violins made around 300 years ago by the master craftsman of Cremona do change hands for several million pounds apiece in private deals.

Mystique and hype doubtless play their part in the cult of the Strad. There are many fine violins who claim that, for sheer tonal richness, the 1,000 violins made by Antonio Stradivari are eclipsed by the 150-odd surviving fiddles of his far less worldly Cremonese neighbour Giuseppe Guarneri del Gesù. Indeed, some of the most prominent virtuosos in history, including Paganini, Heifetz and Kreisler, preferred to play Guarneris.

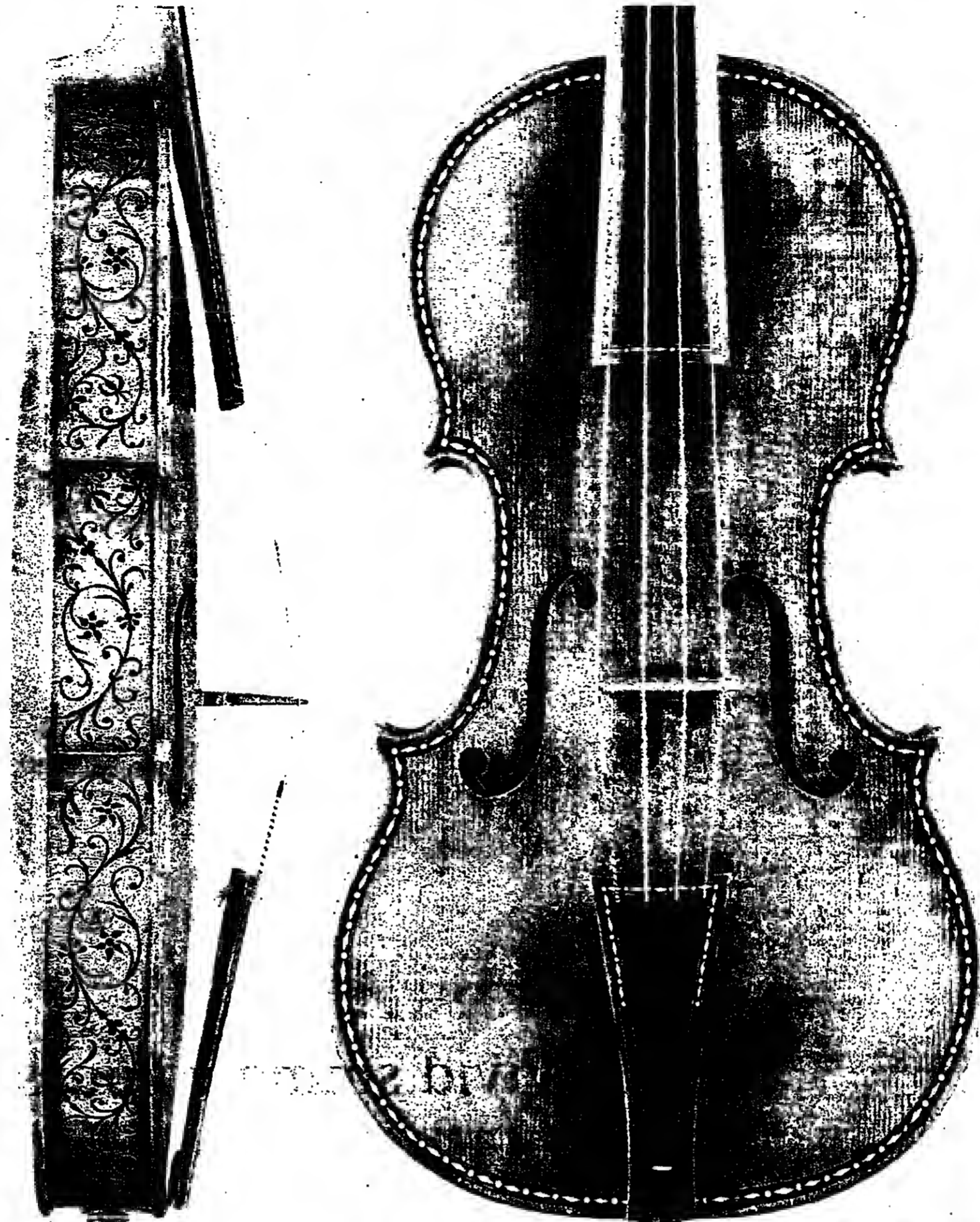
Then there are the historians who say that yet another Cremonese family workshop, the Amatis, deserve a greater slice of posterity's respect than they are usually accorded. Preceding both Stradivari and Guarneri, the Amati family pioneered the shape and sound of the fiddle as we know it today.

And finally there are the hard-nosed anti-romantics who maintain that there is no "lost secret" about the art of violin-making as practised in early 18th-century Cremona. They believe (with some justification) that, after a lean couple of centuries, superb violins are again being crafted. And if these instruments don't yet carry the gilt-edged investment potential of the Strads and Guarneris (the world record price for a modern instrument is still under £20,000), so much the better. Musicians can afford to buy them.

Such arguments will be renewed this week with the publication by the London violin dealer Peter Biddulph of two remarkable books. The first is a study of Guarneri's life and art, gorgeously illustrated with frontwards, backwards and sideways photographs of 25 of his instruments. Four years ago, to mark the 250th anniversary of Guarneri's death, Biddulph brought together these instruments in a never-to-be-repeated exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

This two-volume book, published in a limited edition of 2,000, commemorates that achievement with essays and masses of technical detail, but chiefly with staggeringly beautiful life-size photographs. It comes at a pretty staggering price, too: £800 if you want the leatherbound version, or a mere £400 in cloth. Yet even before its official publication Biddulph has sold 850 copies.

And just as the Cremonese makers spurred each other on to still more remarkable instru-



Side and front views of the "Cipriani-Potter" violin — one of Antonio Stradivari's early instruments, made by the Cremonese master craftsman in 1683

ments, so Biddulph's Guarneri project had an entirely unexpected repercussion for Stradivari scholars. Guarneri's life is poorly documented, and many enigmas surround his work. So at the time of the Met exhibition Biddulph commissioned two scholars, Carlo Chiesa and Duane Rosengard, to scour Cremona's archives for documents that might shed more light on his genius.

They did make a sensational discovery, but not about Guarneri. Hidden away in a dusty official file, probably unopened for 250 years (something to the subsequent embar-

assment of the Italian Government), was the last will and testament of Antonio Stradivari.

Dated January 1729, it consists of a manuscript written in Stradivari's own hand, and three subsequent revisions. These, splendidly illustrated with facsimiles, translations and interpretations by Chiesa and Rosengard, form the content of Biddulph's second book: *The Stradivari Legacy* (a comparative snip at £200 leatherbound or £100 cloth-bound).

Taken together, the will offers a fascinating glimpse of the tensions inside the Stradivari family and workshop — an

awareness, perhaps, of a great era drawing to an end — as well as an insight into the old master's mind as he wrestled with the question of who should take on the family business when he died. Sublime craftsman he might have been, but he comes across as a ghastly father, carrying a lifelong grudge against his most independent son, Ormobono, for a two-year jaunt to Naples that the young man had undertaken some 30 years earlier.

In the event, the golden age of the Cremonese makers came crashing to an end with Stradivari's death, eight years later. Chiesa and Rosengard

## The charmers

Izhak Perlman can pack the Barbican twice over, but perhaps the real star of this show was the small, stooping figure who followed him on to the stage.

The Neapolitan pianist Bruno Canino comes to London all too rarely. It is mostly on disc that one can hear his exquisite artistry, marked by a translucent sound and acute focus. Mozart named his Sonata in D, K306, a "Clavierduetti mit Violin" and indeed it was the pianist who caught our attention, with a performance where every element was in miraculous balance.

Canino provided a bright, virtuoso narrative into which Perlman entered unobtrusively, his brisk, nutty staccato characterising an unshowy approach. His violin sound is famously weighted towards its bass, and there is a dark core even to his higher range. But if the first movement seemed earthbound, Perlman's palette bloomed in the *Andantino cantabile*, where his inimitable warmth came through. His way of looping up notes like old-fashioned handwriting can sound jarring in this repertoire, yet it is unselfconscious. More problematic is the uncomfortably wayward tuning on high, loud notes, the wide vibrato, the sense of discontinuity when he plays large-scale works, particularly noticeable in the Strauss Sonata.

This ambitious, dramatic work needs a powerful momentum to be convincing. Canino had the piano lid almost closed, which produced a fine balance in most of the programme, but for this work it should have been up. Perlman needed a gargantuan torrent against which to engage, while Canino could produce only a mercurial accompaniment.

The second half dissolved into "An Evening with Izhak Perlman" with two pieces which could have been encores, followed by four real encores. Not that he does the entertainer badly: the charm with which he introduced his encores makes you wish he had announced the whole programme. Still, did his choice of Schnittke's graceful *Suite in the Old Style* and two short Smetana pieces betray a lack of stamina? Or was it for pleasure? He basked in these works, reserving a degree of communicative intensity for the string of lullabies, a Wienawski Capriccio, Tchaikovsky's *Humoresque* and Joachim's version of Brahms's first Hungarian Dance. Few do them better.

HELEN WALLACE

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

### MARIE MACLEOD

Age: 18  
Profession: Cellist.



Where to hear her? Tonight she's playing Beethoven, Brahms and Bloch at 7pm in Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, as part of the St Cecilia International Festival of Music.

Yet another prodigy? Well, she started the cello at the age of eight, "simply because my school in Woodbridge, Suffolk, was giving free cello lessons". But she'd expressed an interest in the piano at two, and started music lessons at five. At 11 she found herself at the Yehudi Menuhin School.

Was that a shock to the system? "Yes, I found it very hard until my third year. Mainly because I didn't like boarding, and there was immense pressure to work. But that's what I needed."

Until now... Just two weeks ago Marie started a four-year degree course in music at the Hochschule, Cologne. "I went there mainly because Frans Helmerson is a professor there. Three years ago I was in his masterclass at the Manchester Cello Festival, and I was blown away by his teaching."

Other mentors? Steven Isserlis is the main icon. "And Daniel Shafir. His sound is really individual. He made me aware that the cello is above all a vocal instrument."

Current preoccupations? "Apart from tonight's recital, not a lot. I've just changed teacher, so I'm concentrating on changing my technique. That's drastic: all to do with how I hold the bow."

And she composes too? "Oh no! Not any more. I'm not patient enough. But I make jewellery, you know. Earrings, rings — all in silver. I'm trying to find an evening course in Cologne so I can continue with that."

HILARY FINCH

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This may have been an extraordinarily rich century for music, but it has also been a bad century for musicians: indeed, the creativity that comes out of hardship could have been the theme of An Evening of Banned Music at Islington's Union Chapel. Simon Rattle's special presentation under the auspices of *Index on Censorship*. But this concert was never intended as a comprehensive survey of persecuted composers, and the music was allowed to speak for itself.

Music, of course, says things that words cannot express. That is partly why musical expression has often been feared by regimes. Most potent of all is the combination of words and music. This concert opened with Jill Gomez singing a Catalan folk song that long served as a symbol of resistance. Gomez also gave free-spirited accounts of two songs Poulenc wrote in support of the French Resistance: it was a treat to hear Rattle as a piano accompanist.

More powerful, maybe because Shostakovich suffered more, were the Russian composer's *Four Monologues* based on Pushkin, in which he takes his country's art song tradition and subverts it. Robert Lloyd's singing was magnificently dark, and Eleonora Bekova's piano playing underlined the music's bleakness.

Non-vocal music was represented in the first half only by four of Conlon Nancarrow's glittering *Studies for Player-Pi-*

## Rattling good idea

LONDON CONCERTS

ano, which range from boogie-woogie to *Impressions of Mexico*, the country where he went to live after ill-treatment by American authorities. Rex Lawson peddled them with energetic precision.

Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*, composed in a Nazi prison-camp, is a triumph of creativity over repression. Rattle was joined by an impressive line-up of Tasmin Little (violin), Lynn Harrell (cello) and Anthony Fay (clarinet) in a performance of shining spirituality.

Whichever of Stravinsky's many and multi-faceted theatrical works is the finest, one stands out as easily the most exciting. So it was natural that *The Rite of Spring*, which sounds as explosive now as it did at its infamous premiere 85 years ago, should have been the score to round off Michael Tilson Thomas's illuminating survey of Stravinsky's Stage Music with the London Symphony Or-

chestra. And coupling it with *Perséphone*, described by the composer Elliott Carter as "a humanist rite of spring", was an imaginative touch that increased the unseasonal glow of a bleak November evening at the Barbican.

Even without dancers, a sense of theatricality was supplied here by the visual spectacle of a crack ensemble like the LSO. This was a performance of staggering virtuosity, characterised by the biting attack so typical of the band. But right from the opening's quiet, wailing bassoon, it was also notable for the dark, woody sound of the orchestra, evocative of pagan pipes. Tilson Thomas shaped an account that went to the primitive core of the work.

*Perséphone* belongs to another, later phase of Stravinsky's creative life, and is a much gentler, more humane piece. The score, featuring some of Stravinsky's chastest harmonies and sonorities, has a cool beauty that was brought out by all the performers here.

The London Symphony Chorus and New London Children's Choir were on excellent form. The tenor Stuart Neill had bright and beefy tone appropriate to the declamatory passages of the high priest Eumolpus. Most of all, the actress Stephanie Cosserat was the radiant embodiment of *Perséphone*. Tilson Thomas conducted with real feeling for the work's unique style.

JOHN ALLISON

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LISTINGS

Ewan McGregor on stage

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STOMP: Luke Crosswell brings his marvellous percussion troupe back to Britain after too long away. A national tour follows. Roundhouse, NI (0171-420 0171) Opens tonight, 8pm.

CARMEN: Bugles and drums evoke the romances of Southern Spain as the opera, among 2000 musicians of La Compañía de Sevilla returns the tale of the gypsy girl to its Andalusian roots...

ELSEWHERE... BELFAST: One of the world's foremost song bands, the Leipzig Quartet, pays a visit to the Festival. The first of two concerts in the Harry Rowton today (5.15pm) offers a performance of Schubert's Death and the Maiden followed by (10pm) music by...

NEW WEST END SHOWS... Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London... THE BACKDROCK: Soho Theatre's Co's fine playgroup season continues with Adrian Pagan's look at...

THE BEST OF TIMES: The Endwell Theatre's enjoyable programme of Jerry Herman songs from La Cage au Folie, Mame, Mack & Mabel and Hello, Dolly! transfers to the West End... BRITANNICUS: Diana Riggs and Toby Stephens play the appalling Agrippina and her imperious son Nero in the company's London debut.

THE ODD COUPLE II (18): Mandy Patinkin and George Clooney are reunited in this sequel to the 1988 film. A hilarious comedy about a married couple who are thrown together in a hotel room during a storm.

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ARTS

Bumpy woodland ride

Assassins, Company, and now Into the Woods: once again the tiny Donmar is aiming to prove that Stephen Sondheim is ill-served by large stages, ample auditoriums, lavish scenery and the other trappings of the Great White Way.

The first act, though over-long, is enjoyable enough. There are familiar figures among those making journeys of discovery into the Jungian shadows of the woods imagined by Sondheim and his librettist, James Lapine. Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and her prince, Jack the Giant-Killer-to-be, the prince who falls for Rapunzel, a witch with a withered tree growing from her head and a slice of stag-beetle protruding from her black tattered dress.

Nothing wrong with that. Since this couple have been told by Clare Burt's splendidly malicious witch that they will become fertile only if they collect a red cape, a gold slipper, some yellow hair and Jack's white cow, the ersatz fairytale



Even Clare Burt's splendid witch can't quite find the magic to lift Sondheim's fairytale

somewhere in the woods undoing a spell? If both had survived the second half, instead of insisting on expiring, maybe the evening would not have sagged so badly.

Silly, pretentious stuff; yet it does come with harmonies that make every other Broadway composer sound unso-phisticated and with some thoroughly likeable performances, among them a spindly, aghast mother for Jack from Sheila Reid and, from Thompson, a baker's wife who wryly injects a sense of absurdity into lines like "my husband's

Mom's here, Sonny

IF IT doesn't win an award for anything else, Sonny Deree's Life Flashes Before His Eyes — Bill Bozzone's short, sharp chunk of Tarrano comedy at The Room, Richmond — should at least sweep all before it in the role stakes.

In a seedy motel somewhere near Newark airport, Sonny's grubby life is about to come to a sensational end for the want of \$9,000. The parrot he ordered from Brazil has turned up deep frozen, and the Mafia has sent one of its finest young theats to do the honours.

We arrive at the point where Sonny has run out of phone numbers and Mick is trying to kickstart his chainsaw. Ray Macalman's podgy loser begs for time on his knees. Out of precisely nowhere comes Sonny's long-lost mother, Emma, with the requisite cash but conditions of her own. She wants Sonny to call her Mommy, draw a happy family for her refrigerator door, and sing a corny song which goes along the lines of "There's no greater bond than that between a mother and her son".

If the jokes weren't so spry, this quirky conflict between Emma's rose-tinted view of the past and Sonny's sleazy memories would be desirous. Emma Gregory's frantic production does nothing to curb the cartoon excesses, so the tension exits through the floorboards. Macalman's gibbering bears the hallmarks of over-acting rather than a man who's about to be pruned. P.J. Bickford's amiable hitman goes about his business like a committee member from the Real Ale campaign. Only venerable Marcia Warren manages to unearth any genuine emotion. That there's still enough fizz to call it a tonic by the end speaks volumes for Bozzone's bizarre sense of humour.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Child's play for the wicked

Two wicked children are at the centre of an extraordinary double-bill at the Paris Opera. The idea of pairing Zemlinsky's little-known one-act Der Zwerg (The Dwarf) with Ravel's reasonably familiar L'Enfant et les sortilèges was one of brilliance. The other was to engage a director Richard Jones, who is something of an expert on the child's-eye view of things, as the Covent Garden Ring revealed. He and his designer, Antony McDonald, have responded with a double staging of quite exceptional imagination.

hoop-skirted Infanta, but the voice sounded small and the personality was insufficiently vicious. After the cruelties of Der Zwerg the misbehaviour of the Child in Ravel seems quite mild. Smashing teapots, tearing the wallpaper and knocking over the grandfather clock are mere tantrums. But Ravel, with the help of his librettist (Collette no less), makes the crucial point that maltreatment of the inanimate can lead quickly to maltreatment of the animate. L'Enfant is a revenge opera, but with the softest of centres. It only needs one kind action from the Child, when he bandages the wound of his pet squirrel, and the return of Maman for the world to be set to rights again.

Opera in Paris

The American tenor David Kuebler gives the performance of his career as the Dwarf (a mannequin strapped to his torso), his keen knife-edged voice cutting through the sometimes complex text. There are other notable contributions from Andrew Shore as the impassive Major-domo and Susan Anthony as another member of the household. Christine Schäfer looks well enough as the

opera is set against a background of vivid oriental colours, and a backdrop of powerful asparagus spears. The latter could have been a matter for jest, but Jones succeeds in turning them into objects of menace, phallic adjuncts of the Infanta's coming of age.

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كوزا من الاصل

# On the street where you live

A quiet road in Chelsea provides a telling index of change in the housing market. Report by Rachel Kelly

Those trying to judge the state of the housing market are bombarded by statistics that are all but meaningless, mostly because they are so general. This month, for instance, the Halifax reported a 12 per cent rise in prices, yet others say that the slump in the market is worsening.

Further confusion is sown by the difference between aspirational asking prices and the price at which a house eventually changes hands. Agents rarely confirm the actual price at which a house is sold, and may be bound not to reveal it by confidentiality agreements with their clients. Nor, at the moment, does the Land Registry reveal the price paid, although the Government is considering changing the system.

In a rising market, asking prices race ahead and can be matched by buyers in bidding wars. But in today's falling market, the difference between asking and achieved prices can be as much as 15 per cent. Savills, the estate agents, believes that there is a third category of prices — the real value of property, judged by professional valuers and based on comparable sales. The company's index of residential values for prime properties in Central London uses this real-value approach; movements are established by looking at what has happened to similar properties on the open market.



Halsey Street SW3, where a house recently sold for twice the price it fetched in 1991, proving that even in uncertain times, homes in select areas will outperform the market

close to Sloane Square, and the houses command a premium because of its location. Currently Lane Fox is selling No 44, a west-facing house which is on the market for £950,000. Two other houses on the eastern terrace are also on the market for the same price. Yet only this summer, a similar house was being marketed for £1.2 million — a change that reflects the slump in the City, the turmoil in Russia and the sense of economic gloom. No 39 Halsey Street has also reflected the changing market over the past ten years. This Victorian terraced family house has four bedrooms, two bathrooms and an attractive 35ft west-facing garden. It has recently been redecorated. Houses on the west side of the street have generally fetched somewhat lower prices because of the overland rumble of the District and Circle Lines, and the fact that both

houses and gardens are slightly smaller than on the eastern side. Lane Fox first sold No 39 in May 1993 for £690,000. It had been sold through a different agent only two years previously for £485,000 — a 40 per cent increase. According to the Halifax House Price Index, house prices had been decreasing in the country as a whole from early in 1990. In Greater London, the decline had started a year earlier and was steeper, with prices down 5.3 per cent on the previous year. But the Halsey Street sale indicates the truism that a good family house in a select location can outperform the market and make a mockery of national statistics. "There is always a lot of interest in Halsey Street," says Lulu Egerton, a director of Lane Fox. Its pretty houses of suocco and brick make it an extremely popular street in Chelsea. The size of the properties

— in between that of the cottages and of the larger houses available in other parts of the borough — makes them ideal for parents with young children. The street itself is wide, light and tranquil, creating an agreeable environment for residents. One inhabitant of the street is Michael Clode, a senior partner in a law firm. He has lived in Halsey Street for five years with three of his four daughters. "It is a very convenient and pleasant place to live," he says. "It is close to many pubs, restaurants and shops, and because it is a wide street, parking is never a problem. It has also retained some of the character that other areas have lost." By 1996, No 39 was for sale once again. After remaining on the market for three months, it eventually sold for its 1993 price, £690,000.

Although the market was beginning to pick up at this stage, price increases were fairly negligible and, in the Greater London area, they fell again in 1995. The surprisingly high increase in 1993 may account for the static price. The most recent sale of the house was in May of this year. It went on the market on February 20, contracts were exchanged on May 15 and the deal was completed on August 3. Although the property failed to reach its asking price of £985,000, it eventually went for £970,000 — a 100 per cent increase in price since 1991, reflecting the crazy market earlier this year in prime Central London. This came at a time when house prices everywhere were on the increase. The Halifax House Price Index showed a 5.5 per cent rise in the UK as a whole, and an 11.8 per cent rise in Greater London, on last year's figures. Now a similar house would sell for around £900,000.

"Yes, we are beginning to feel the recession," Ms Egerton says. "Values in Halsey Street are 5 to 10 per cent down. There are fewer buyers around, too. But a house in good condition..." Research by John D Wood looked at changing house prices over the past ten years in Palace Gardens Terrace, Notting Hill Gate. Between 1988 and 1993, property there generally kept pace with inflation, losing only 4.25 per cent in real terms. However, in the past five years prices increased by 76 per cent, outstripping inflation. In the past ten years, prices have increased by 69 per cent. In 1988 a five-bedroom, white suocco house sold for £640,000. In 1993 the same house sold for £810,000. By 1998, the house was sold for £1.6 million. Additional research by Anna Hilton

Address	Then	Now
15 houses have added a floor, bedrooms from 3 to 5. Numbers 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 overlook railway	£440,000 6/7/90	£435,000 8/12/98
Overlook, Circle/District Line	£690,000 15/5/98	£690,000 20/5/98
	£495,000 2/3/92	£605,000 22/12/98
	£690,000 18/12/98	£855,000 24/8/98

## SMART MOVES

THE Knightsbridge flat where Diana, Princess of Wales, lived before her marriage has come off the market. It was put up for sale at £450,000 in May, but failed to sell at that price and now the family who owns it has decided to stay. The late Princess moved into the flat, which her parents bought for £50,000, in July 1979. She once described her days at Coleherne Court with her flatmates Virginia Finnan, Carolyn Pride and Anne Bolton as the happiest of her life: "I laughed my head off there."

COOMBE COTTAGE, a former pub in Hanging Langford, near Salisbury, is for sale. Jamie Compton, a doctor of botany, and his wife Tania, the gardening editor of *House & Garden*, have lived there since 1989. FPD Savills Salisbury office is selling the house, which boasts a garden of rare and unusual plants, for a guide price of £210,000.

THE White Lodge, off Bishops Avenue in Highgate, North London, was owned by Lana Turner, the star of the original version of *The Postman Always Rings Twice* and *Imitation of Life*, and Mario Lanza, the Italian singer and actor. The property has eight bedrooms and bathrooms, a swimming pool and sauna. Harptons International is selling it for £7 million.

A HOUSE in Aston Mews, South Kensington, that was once the home of the British film director Nicholas Roeg is for sale. His films included *Walkabout*, *Castaway*, and the Oscar-winning *Don't Look Now*. The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms and the whole of the ground floor is a 36ft by 22ft studio. The freehold of the house is for sale through Lurot Brand for £675,000.

HELEN MIRREN, the star of *Prime Suspect*, has been seen viewing a three-bedroom flat in Albert Hall Mansions, Kensington Gore, being sold by Druce for £750,000.

SUE MACGREGOR has put her three-bedroom flat in Belisle Park NW3, on the market. Ms MacGregor is the presenter of the *Today* programme on Radio 4. She is looking for a larger house nearer Broadcasting House. The Hampstead office of Behr and Butchoff is selling the 83-year lease for £285,000.

FPD SAVILLS denies that it has sold No 118 Eaton Square to Lord Harris of Peckham, the chairman of Carpetright and Allied Carpets. The house is reputed to have gone for £17 million.

BEN WAKEHAM

## The price of peace: faith and an old coat hanger

Dowsers claim that they can sense what makes a healthy home. Emma Mahony put them to the test



John Emin uses a pendulum to sense the energy lines

After a month in our new house, we were desperate. Our 18-month-old baby, Humphrey, was hardly sleeping. Nor were we. He had a constant, nagging cough. The doctor could do nothing. Then, one evening, I moved Humphrey's cot to the other side of the bedroom. He slept through the night without a whimper, without a cough. And we had our first night's sleep for a month — thanks to a dowser called John Emin. A coincidence, you might say, that moving the cot allowed Humphrey to sleep. But take the case of Jane McIlroy (not her real name), a young Scotswoman who suffered from chronic fatigue syndrome. Her bed had remained in the same place since she was two years old. She was in hospital to have an ovarian cyst removed when her parents approached Mr Emin. He dowsed her bedroom from a map and found a positive line crossing a negative line where her bed stood. He advised them to move the bed when she came out of hospital. Now, four months later, she is a different person, learning to swim and enthusiastically planning a round-the-world trip with her new boyfriend. These are just two pieces of anecdotal evidence to suggest that there is something to support the claims of "geopathic stress" experts. Geopathic stress is not easy to explain. Try telling a cynic that there are invisible forces such as positive and negative energy lines running through the earth, which may be responsible for your health.

Yet geopathic stress experts believe that if you are suffering from ME, chronic tiredness or even cancer, it may be because your bed is lying on a negative line — or, even worse, the point at which a positive line meets a negative line. The Dulwich Health Society even believes that all health problems can be put down to geopathic stress. "Credulous, anti-scientific nonsense," as Victor Lewis-Smith put it when reviewing Channel 5's *Housebusters*, a television programme on the subject. However you view it, geopathic stress is certainly not scientific. Even the literature from the British Society of Dowsters admits that "although many theories have been put forward over the years, there is no satisfactory scientific explanation of the dowsing reaction". Its literature suggests that it is associated with changes in brain rhythms and muscular responses, and most dowsters use some form of instrument, such as a rod or pendulum, to amplify their responses. Evidence that good results are achieved is largely anecdotal. Curious to know more, I conducted an experiment. I asked the British Society of Dowsters to suggest two people on its register; the society suggested John Emin and Major-General Bill Cooper, and I invited them to dowse my home for these mysterious energy lines. Both were to dowse the house from the same hand-drawn plan of the first floor. The shapes of the rooms were included, but no details of what purpose the rooms served. A page ripped out of the local street guide helped

them to determine the exact location of north and south. The results were enough to raise eyebrows — particularly when the men were invited round to complete the experiment. Both Mr Emin and Major-General Cooper found the same positive line crossing the door of the bedroom in exactly the same place, albeit at slightly different angles. The major-general found no negative lines. Mr Emin found two — one running through the nursery where the baby's cot stood, another through the sitting room. The second part of the experiment was to get our neighbours, who had never dowsed before, to dowse the house for lines with rods made from galvanised coat hangers. According to the society, anyone can dowse, although some find it more difficult to obtain a response than others. All can develop the art through practice. With no knowledge of the experts' findings, a neighbour number one stood in the corner of the sitting room and asked the rods if there were any negative lines. As he walked across the middle of the room, the coat hangers crossed. His wife did the same, and the hangers crossed at the same spot. They then repeated the ritual, asking for positive lines, and each found one in roughly the same place, outside the door. When I showed them the maps, which corresponded with their findings, they wanted to know more. What can you say, except that it seems to work? What is certain is that all dowsters such as John Emin can relate stories about people suffering from cancer, or from chronic fatigue syndrome, who felt better once their beds had been moved on to positive lines. Even Mr Emin admits that it may be a "placebo effect". But for the price of a coat hanger, it's worth it for a good night's sleep. British Society of Dowsters, 01233 750253

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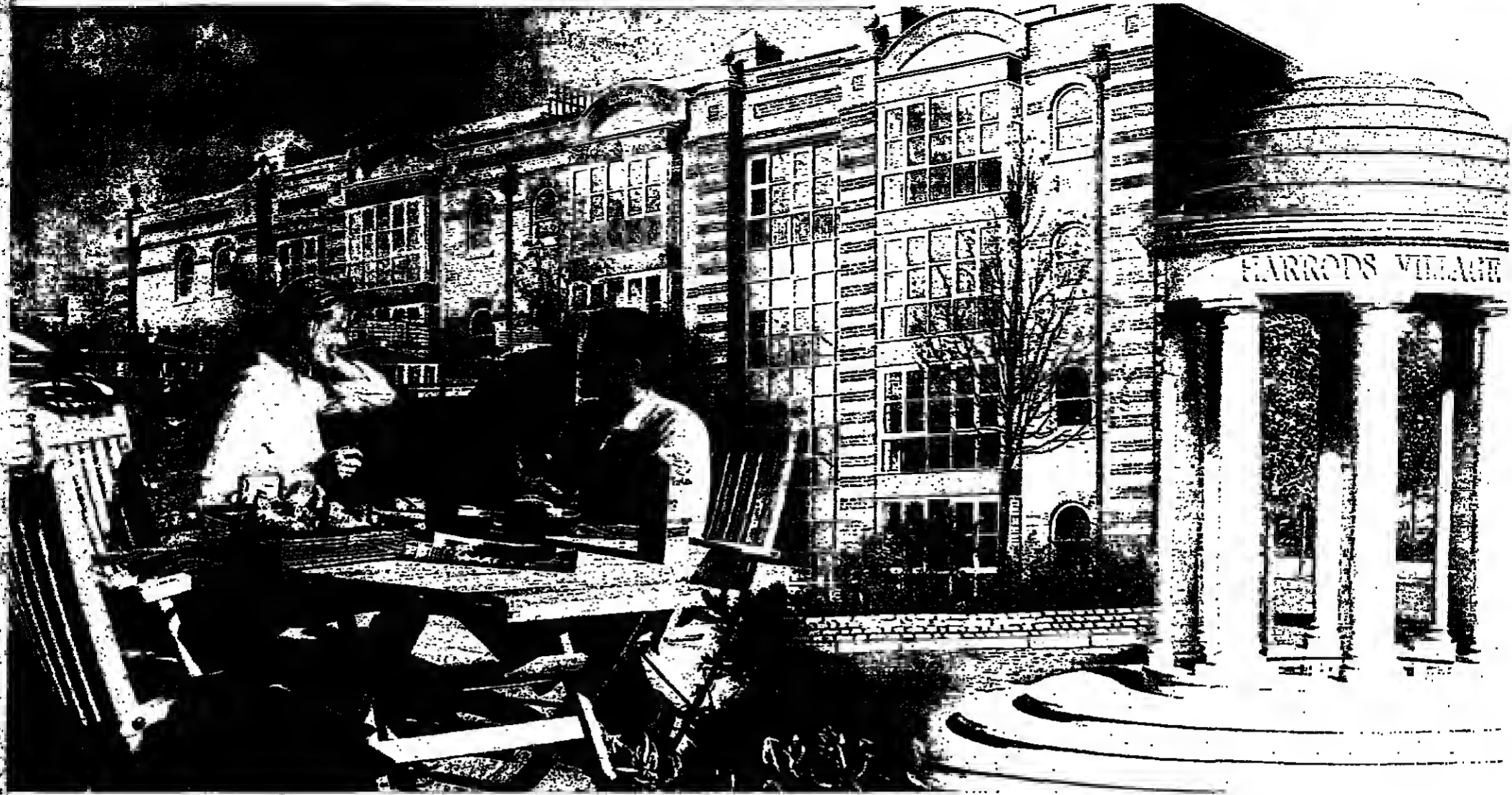
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A live and kicking tradition... Nigel Williamson gets into the swing of the Jewish Music Festival...

RUGBY UNION

Cambridge try to find consolation in defeat

Cambridge University 13 Fijijs 49

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT THE Fijijs, unbeaten after three of their eight matches, have the World Cup next year on their minds.

The power of the Fijijs running threatened to overwhelm Cambridge in the first half, but a try for Bidwell immediately after the interval lifted their hopes...



Patricio Noriega, the former Argentina international, trains with the Australia squad in Paris yesterday.

Pini swaps shirts before game

MATTHEW PINI, the Richmond full back capped eight times by Australia, makes his debut for Italy in the World Cup qualifying game with the Netherlands in Huddersfield tonight.

Pini, born in Canberra but with Italian grandparents, will be part of a XV which, though omitting several of their more experienced forwards, will expect to give the Dutch their second pounding within five days.

Glasgow's esteem is dented by Maoris

BY ALASDAIR REID

THE brief and unimpressive lives of Scotland's super-district sides may be drawing to a close, having failed to justify themselves in either a playing or financial sense.

Already the subject of stinging criticism from within Scotland, the self-esteem of Glasgow Caledonians could hardly have been helped yesterday when the New Zealand Maoris named a weakened side to face them at McDermid Park, Perth tonight.

En route to the qualifiers, Georgia defeated Croatia, Denmark and Russia and were beaten 14-3 by Italy.

GLASGOW CALEDONIANS: T Haynes, J Ding, G Simons, J Jarrold, A Bullock, L Brown, G Macdonald, J Scott, A Vainio, S Campbell, G Penner, G Pochan, J Shaw, G Marsh, D Macfarlane, D Smith, A Collier, J Patterson, M Wallace, J Park, J Mackay, A N Oler.

Wigan duo passed fit for Ireland debuts

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE Wigan pair of Gary Connolly and Terry O'Connor, fresh from Great Britain duty against New Zealand, make their international bows for Ireland in the final Tri-Nations match against Scotland, at Partick Thistle Football Club, Glasgow, tonight.

Both players passed fitness tests yesterday after they were slightly injured in the final match of the series, at Watford last Saturday.

However, the RFL are disappointed that the Scottish Rugby Union pulled an advertisement for the rugby league international out of the match programme for South Africa's opening tour match, also at Firhill, last week.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Atherton aiming to be back in Test reckoning

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN BRISBANE

FOR a few confusing hours yesterday, the focus of England's anxiety switched from Michael Atherton's stiff back to John Crawley's scarred face...

England's fielding drills, performed in the shadow of the building site that sadly dominates the Gabba during its redevelopment programme...

The question of what happens if he is ruled out still hovers darkly. Morton spoke optimistically of proceeding to a "stage three", which could involve still more injections...

Ironically, Crawley's inclusion on Friday may depend on Atherton being unfit, especially if the desire of the captain, Alec Stewart, holds sway...



Rose looks weary at San Roque in Spain yesterday, even before he has hit a ball in anger. Photograph: Andrew Redington

Parker sidelined after accident

As if the demands of competing at the European Tour qualifying school were not strict enough for aspiring professional golfers...

John Hopkins on an unwanted prelude to the European Tour qualifying school

car - Gary Tilston, Darren Parker and Ian Bainbridge were also hurt. Tilston, Coles' caddie, was unsteady on his feet yesterday afternoon...

Justin Rose, who at 18 is less than half Drummond's age, is just beginning to make his way in the professional game...

The competitors are a mixture of greybeards and young men with stars in their eyes. At 41, Ross Drummond is a perfect example...

Fixture list offers only cold comfort

BY JOHN STERN

MISCHIEVOUS Australians actually took place at Fenner's before the first Test by ensuring the absence of Michael Atherton...

That unique occurrence actually took place at Fenner's on April 25 1981, when the umpires took the players off the field to give them some relief...

As drama shadowed the England party on several fronts, the Australians simply sat back and watched. The biggest news from their camp yesterday was that Shane Warne has been offered almost £100,000...

AMERICAN FOOTBALL table with columns for team, score, and location.

CRICKET table with columns for match, date, and result.

HOCKEY table with columns for team, score, and location.

ICE HOCKEY table with columns for team, score, and location.

SNOOKER table with columns for player, score, and event.

REAL TENNIS table with columns for player, score, and event.

SNOOKER

Holt has his cue from Fu

BY PHIL YATES

MARCO FU and Michael Holt, a player he has inspired, proved too strong for established rivals in the first round of the Liverpool Victoria UK championship...

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Advertisement for Habitat Christmas offer, including a 20% discount token and details on how to use it.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Blanco hopes to unite Europe

RUGBY UNION: Leading French clubs hope to meet their English counterparts in London tomorrow to discuss the future of the European Cup...

Young Ipswich Town player given the difficult task of upholding goalkeeping tradition

# Wright protects English heritage

By MATT DICKINSON

WHAT someone asked Richard Wright at Bisham Abbey this week is your main strength as a goalkeeper. "He's English," piped up a voice from the back, but it was not a laughing matter. Once a flourishing trade, the goalkeeping industry in England appears to be dying out. Wright is not just the best young custodian of international calibre — he is practically the only one.

Of the ten matches in the FA Carling Premiership last weekend, there were only six goalkeepers eligible for England, and one of those was a 39-year-old, Dave Beasant. Two others, David James and Shaka Hislop, have already been discarded from the international fold, which leaves the thirty-somethings, David Seaman and Nigel Martyn, along with Michael Oakes of Aston Villa (Tim Flowers was injured).

Nor is the shortage likely to be alleviated. Alex Ferguson has said he will shop abroad for a successor to Peter Schmeichel, and who can blame the Manchester United manager when Tranmere Rovers can demand more than £3 million from Everton for Steve Simonsen, a teenager with less than 50 first-team games?

No wonder, then, that England have been keen to advance Wright through the ranks quickly, inviting the Ipswich Town goalkeeper to training camps before selecting him for the full squad for the international against the Czech Republic tonight.

At Bisham Abbey, he has been under the guidance of Ray Clemence, who won 61 caps in an era when England was blessed with a number of outstanding goalkeepers. Clemence now faces the problem of discovering his successors. "In the 1970s and 1980s, we used to think goalkeepers grew on trees," Clemence said. "There were eight or ten in the old first division who were



In safe hands: Wright's excellent performances for Ipswich Town have earned him a call-up to the full England squad despite his tender years

good enough to play for England. Now there are only half a dozen Englishmen playing in the top league, and one of those is Dave Beasant. Between the ages of 21 and 30, we don't have too many.

"It is a problem and if we don't address it properly, it will become a major problem. If you look at Dino Zoff and Peter Shilton, who went on until they were over 40, we still have time because David Seaman is 35. It is not a crisis yet, but we need to bring them on with proper coaching." It is all good news for Wright, as evidence is mounting that Seaman is beginning to feel his years at Arsenal. Wright acknowledges, though, that he is still prone to lapses and has much to learn. If he fails to develop, it will not be for lack of diligence. An unflamboyant son of Suffolk, he admires the calm authority of Seaman, rather than Schmeichel's rantings or the

clowning antics of Grobelaar. Although he turned 21 less than a fortnight ago, Wright appears older, partly because of the fact that he became a father this month, but also because he had to grow up quickly when his father, Colin, died of cancer three years ago. He admits that he "could have gone to pot" then, but instead, throwing himself into his goalkeeping with renewed vigour, and his talents have lured a posse of Premiership scouts to

Portman Road, Manchester United's included. "I hear the speculation, but I can put it behind me," he said. "Experience wise, you need to be in the Premiership but I've got 2½ years left on my contract at Ipswich and I'm hoping to get there with this team." Ipswich, in no small part thanks to Wright's bulky frame, are second in the Nationwide League first division. While Wright may have to watch tonight

from the bench, he is guaranteed one international appearance next Wednesday when a Nationwide League team plays a select XI from Italy's Serie B in Terni.

"He can handle anything," Clemence said. "He has great reflexes and he concentrates well. He's a good communicator with his defenders and he's gaining first-team experience every week." England's future may be secure, but there does not seem to be much alternative.

# Coach inspires with new Czech pattern

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AFTER the limp performance against Sweden, Bulgaria and Luxembourg, what better fixture could England have arranged than against the Czech Republic at Wembley tonight? It is widely perceived as an opportunity to rid the demons of the recent past against opponents who appear to have done little since finishing as runners-up to Germany in the European championship final two years ago.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, knows better. Hopefully, the Czechs might have subsequently failed to qualify for the World Cup finals, but they have since embarked on a ten-match unbeaten run, nine games of which have been under the guidance of Jozef Chovanec, their new coach, who succeeded Dusan Uhrin in January. In transition they may be, but impressively so.

Their victims include Uruguay, Paraguay, Ireland and Denmark and they also lead group nine, after winning their first three qualifying matches for the European championship in 2000. Hoddle may have preferred Eastern European opposition to replace Yugoslavia, but could perhaps have chosen from the lesser-ranked nations. Can the media and the masses stomach another gut-wrenching England display?

In contrast to Hoddle, whose line-up will bear scant resemblance to his natural selection, Chovanec has almost a first-choice squad at his disposal. Only Jan Suchoparek, the Strassbourg defender, and Pavel Nedved, the Lazio midfielder, are missing. "It is a match of special importance for both teams from the better

half of European football," Chovanec said yesterday. "I expect a strong fight between two different football schools and cultures. Will it be physical? I expect it to be so."

Chovanec cut a stern figure, rarely smiling. "I don't think I will be trying too many experiments," he said. "I know my players' ability, so there is no need to waste time by paying particular attention to England's experiments." He had to be persuaded to reveal how he had resigned the Czech flame. "It is difficult to speak about myself," he said. "I suppose I have tried to stabilise the team and develop the positive features from my predecessor."

Chovanec is a diplomat, too, and steered deftly around leading questions from the Scottish press. The Czechs travel to Scotland for a Euro 2000 qualifying match on March 31, a game that could have a considerable impact on the outcome of the group. "It is very difficult to say if we will field the same side against Scotland," Chovanec said. "There are similarities between English and Scottish football, which is why this is a good game for us, but it is a long time between now and March."

He did not feel the need to consult Dr Jozef Venglos, the manager of Celoc and his compatriot, about Scotland's merits. He again erred on the side of caution when asked in which half of European football, the top or the bottom, Scotland could be placed. "They are in the upper half," he said. "They are a good side and the proof is that they played in the World Cup finals." Chovanec is smart. His players are smart. England should beware.

## Minister's promise on racism

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TONY BANKS, the Minister of Sport, has pledged to look into the problems of racism in football in an effort to encourage more black people into management.

At present, only two black men, Ruud Gullit of Newcastle United, and Viv Anderson at Middlesbrough, play a part in management in the FA Carling Premiership, but Mr Banks, speaking at a Show Racism the Red Card conference, said: "As long as I am sports minister I will make sure something is done. These are not empty words, you will see."

Crystal Palace are investigating an apparent shortfall of about £400,000 in the purchase of the Chinese players, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai.

They were bought this season for what Palace thought was a combined fee of £1.35 million, but the Chinese Football Association, the selling body, is expecting to receive only £950,000. Palace are to ask for assistance from the English FA to help them deal with the matter.

Kevin Keegan, the Fulham manager, has signed the Bristol Rovers striker Barry Hayes, 26, for a fee of £2 million.

Tim Flowers, the Blackburn Rovers goalkeeper, is to be out of action until the new year, but will not need an operation on his injured arm. Flowers missed the Worthington Cup victory at Newcastle and the Premiership defeat at Manchester United last week.

## Milosevic savours happier times

FROM TOM WALKER

IN the bitter cold of the OFK Belgrade stadium, there was one figure left after training, bent double, spitting into the cloying mud as a thin mist smoked from his tracksuit. Better to spit at the pitch than those around it is one of the footballing lessons taken on board by Savo Milosevic, formerly of Aston Villa, over his past year of transition.

The striker has emerged from the infamous altercation with Aston Villa supporters last January that ended with his departure from the Midlands. Revitalised by Spanish first-division football with Real Zaragoza, he expects to start for Yugoslavia against Ireland in his hometown of Belgrade tonight. No more

must the 25-year-old endure the terrace taunts of "you're not fit to wear the shirt" that rang in his ears as he donned the claret and blue of a club at which he felt ill at ease, within a city and a country that he, his wife Vesna and son Nikola never really enjoyed.

"To be honest, I'm a lot happier now," Milosevic said. "I don't regret anything, but I made a mistake and I take responsibility for that. Once you've done something, there is no going back. You just try to learn from it."

Even today in Belgrade, Milosevic must endure ribaldry from Red Star supporters, who remember him as a precocious youngster with Partizan, their local rivals. "Save the monkey," they cry; for Partizan fans he remains "Savo the

master". Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, appears unperturbed; perhaps rightly so his team's victory in their group over Croatia, who finished third in the World Cup. McCarthy said Milosevic "blew hot and cold" in England and believes the Slav mentality can be suspect.

"Their game is swashbuckling, free-flowing and expansive, but they get a goal against them and they are

nervy," McCarthy said, recalling the manner in which Germany fought back in the World Cup, forcing a 2-2 draw after being 2-0 down.

McCarthy is low-key about the encounter and plays down the physical aspect, a focus for some. "This stuff about us being physical is mythology," he said. "The Yugoslavs hold it up and tackle just as we do." Politics are low on the agenda, but Milosevic said: "We keep on hearing about 200,000 Albanian refugees, but what about the one million Serbs from the war, 500,000 looking for somewhere to live in Belgrade. What happens to them? God knows, I'd like to come back and live here one day, but for the moment I'm concentrating on my job."

### GROUP EIGHT

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Ireland	2	2	0	0	7	0
Croatia	3	2	0	1	7	5
FYR Macedonia	2	1	0	1	6	3
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	3	0	3	1	1	0

RESULTS: Sept 8, Ireland 2 Croatia 0, Sept 8 FYR Macedonia 4 Malta 0, Oct 12, Malta 1 Croatia 4, Oct 14, Ireland 5 Malta 0, Croatia 3 FYR Macedonia 2.

## McMenemy remains on guard

By GEORGE CAULKIN

LIKE many of those employed in Lawrie McMenemy's precarious chosen profession, the Northern Ireland manager wisely peppered his conversation with such battle-worn phrases as "complacency" and "no easy games,"

yesterday. The mantle of favourites sits comfortably on few sides in international football.

For McMenemy, the experience was a new one and he countered by claiming that his team remained "underdogs" for the visit of Moldova in European championship qualifying group three tonight. "Look at where we draw our

squad from; see how much they're playing," he said. However, the fact remains that a Windsor Park crowd of some 10,000 will arrive expecting a comfortable home victory.

Such optimism will, in part, be based on Moldova's unimpressive, if brief, track record. They are some 29 places below Northern Ireland in the latest Fifa world rankings, and, in the five years since their full affiliation after splitting from the former Soviet Union, they have mustered just one competitive away win.

Their cause is further weakened by the suspension of Igor Oprea, the influential midfielder player, who scored twice in Moldova's 3-2 defeat against

Finland, but it is not simply the status of the opposition that provides cautious grounds for hope. After beating Finland last month, victory tonight would propel Northern Ireland into joint leadership of a group also containing Turkey and Germany.

### GROUP THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	4
Turkey	3	2	0	1	6	4
Germany	2	1	0	1	3	3
N Ireland	2	0	2	1	3	3
Moldova	0	0	2	1	0	0

RESULTS: Sept 5, Finland 3 Moldova 2, Turkey 3 Northern Ireland 0, Oct 12, Turkey 1 Germany 0, Northern Ireland 1 Finland 0, Oct 14, Moldova 1 Germany 3, Turkey 1 Finland 3.

## Elite youth face tests of fitness

By JOHN GOODBODY

ENGLAND'S elite youth footballers are to undergo twice-yearly tests to monitor their physical progress and identify why so many suffer injuries that threaten their careers.

To the first extensive national study conducted anywhere in the world, more than 10,000 youngsters aged from nine to 21, and attending the 34 new academies at Premiership and Football League clubs, will be examined and measured by the two physiotherapists and academy doctors detailed to look after England's future internationals at these clubs.

From January 1, all injuries suffered by these players that require them to rest for two days will be collated by the FA's medical education centre's research department at Lillishall. This will help researchers discover why some youngsters suffer injuries at particular ages.

Alan Hodson, the FA's head of sports medicine, said: "There is a massive need for this research. We aim to be setting standards that no one else has ever done in football in these numbers, and at this age and level."

There has been widespread concern that English youngsters play too often, sometimes suffering chronic injuries. In 1993 and 1994, 17 per cent of the applicants to the FA National School at Lillishall had stress fractures to their lower spine, compared to six per cent of ordinary youngsters of the same age.

## Rijkaard takes bold gamble

FROM ROB HUGHES IN GELSENKIRCHEN

THE industrial Ruhr in Germany is anything but hospitable in the depths of winter. The river is chill personalised, snow is falling and more than 1,000 police and specially trained troops are being amassed for the so-called friendly encounter tonight between Germany and Holland.

Given that a Dutch supporter was killed in a fight prearranged between followers of Ajax and Feyenoord a year ago, given the legacy of the World Cup, after which a policeman in Lens lies with brain damage after being attacked by German thugs, Ulrich Grzella, the police chief here, is justified in his precautions.

"We assume that violence-prone fans will come to Gelsenkirchen," he said, speaking of the home city of Schalke 04, which has a condemned stadium and a new one that is about to be built for 385 mil-

lion deutschmarks, is — in the sporting sense — a venue for one country looking backwards, the other forward.

When heavy criticism forced out Bertie Vogts as the national coach this autumn, Germany persuaded Erich Ribbeck, 61, to come out of retirement. He has unretired Lothar Matthaus and Andreas Muller as the libero and the playmaker, the two most creative roles in the Germany side.

In contrast, when Guus Hiddink, the coach who coached Holland to the World Cup semi-finals and then left for Real Madrid, the Dutch handed the reins to Frank Rijkaard, who, at 35, is two years younger than Matthaus.

Rijkaard had never coached a team in his life, though, along with Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle United manager, he was invited to take a course this summer. He has been quite bold and futuristic in deciding that if Dennis Bergkamp is so seldom available to travel for his country, then Ruud van Nistelrooij will take his place.

Van Nistelrooij has had just one spectacular season in the top flight. He scored 13 goals in 30 games for Heerenveen last season, and was sold to PSV Eindhoven, who are under the wing of Bobby Robson, the former England manager.

Tonight, providing we can concentrate on the football, it will be intriguing to see the new boy from Holland taking on the old-timer, Matthaus.



Matthaus: back as libero

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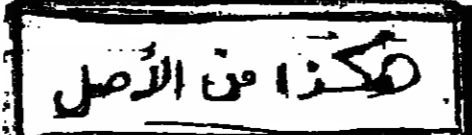
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...which offers up to 20 people at a time a virtual reality ride over the unique Grand National fences... The Morphis MovieRide theatre... gives the capsule its proper title... has been developed after jockeys wear small cameras on their helmets while riding at Aintree during last season's Grand National meeting.

Richard Evans on a project turning science fiction into fact

National offers armchair ride



Viewers are given the opportunity chance to experience the thrill of riding over the Grand National fences

In a scene reminiscent of a Steven Spielberg science fiction film, a cross between a rocket capsule and an aircraft cockpit suddenly began to gyrate in the corner of a Coswold field yesterday — as the Martell Grand National came to Gloucestershire.

If a casual observer could be forgiven for thinking an unidentified flying object had landed on the gallops at Nigel Twiston-Davies's yard, those inside the gleaming white futuristic creation were having similar thoughts as they experienced the full range of emotions felt by jockeys riding in the world's most famous steeplechase — including a bone-shaking fall at the first fence.

After that mishap, viewers are magically transferred to a safer conveyance in the shape of Kery Orchard, a ten-year-old grey, who completed the course in the Fox Hunters' Chase. With a commentary by Carl Llewellyn, who won this year's Grand National on Earth Summit, the theatre jockeys experience the thrill of jumping fences such as Becher's Brook and Foinavon.

The simulator will go on a nationwide tour before taking up permanent residence at Aintree after the running of next year's Grand National, where it will be an essential part of a new visitors' centre.

National to the people. You only have to see the television viewing figures or the betting turnover on the race to realise how much it matters to the general public.

After an investigation and report into the most recent running of the Grand National, some important changes are being implemented for next year's renewal. A panel of experts will be appointed by the Jockey Club to advise on whether any horse entered for the race should not be allowed to run.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Wetherby
Going: good
1.10 (2m hds) 1. Panama House (1), Wyr. 13-9 fav., 2. Master Tom (7-1), 3. Danganman (11-1), 10 ran. 4. 3 T East-... Total: £24,400. CSF: £11,150.

1.00 (2m hds) 1. Red Eland (W), 11-8 fav., 2. Roy Boy (9-1), 3. Fearless Wonder (5-1), 4 ran. 2. 1/2 W... Total: £13,800. CSF: £7,150.

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SHEEHAN ON BRIDGE
By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
A recurring theme is that the correct play in a suit in isolation may not be the correct play in the context of the whole hand.

KEENE ON CHESS
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Today I give two further victories for Judith Polgar's superb performance.

Diagram of final position for a chess game, showing pieces on a board.

Diagram of final position for a chess game, showing pieces on a board.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
A recurring theme is that the correct play in a suit in isolation may not be the correct play in the context of the whole hand. The declarer on this hand was British international Steve Lodge.

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT
Today I give two further victories for Judith Polgar's superb performance, winning first prize ahead of Tamar Spassky with a one and a half point margin at the VAM tournament in Holland.

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THUNDERER
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1.05 RACING FOR GAIN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS
NOVICES HURDLE (TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£2,327; 2m) (13 runners)

1.40 BOOK NOW FOR BOXING DAY-01372 470047
NOVICES CHASE (£3,534; 2m) (11)

HEREFORD
THUNDERER
1.00 Breathe, 1.30 Cool As A Cucumber, 2.00 Tony's Mist, 2.30 Running De Carley, 3.00 Shadann, 3.30 Clinion, 4.00 Madam Ross.

1.00 MARDEN JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(3-Y-O; £2,556; 2m) (16 runners)

1.30 BACTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
CHASE (£2,962; 2m) (16)

2.00 BRISTOW SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,828; 2m) (16)

2.50 EDWARD HANMER MEMORIAL CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE)
(Limited handicap; £25,240; 3m) (6 runners)

1.20 GENTLE RIVAGE
2.50 SURRY BAY
3.20 BECCA'S ROSE
3.55 KEY GRIP (nap)

1.20 CALEDONIA RENAULT FLEET NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,885; 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1.50 MASON COMMUNICATIONS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,788; 2m 4f) (4 runners)

2.20 ST HELENS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,773; 2m 7f 110yd) (6 runners)

3.20 NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS POLICE MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,773; 2m 10f) (10 runners)

3.55 HINDLEY GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,701; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

WORD-WATCHING
By Philip Howard
BOMBORA
a. An ice cream pudding
b. Broken water
c. A goblin in Tolkien

WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Marchian-Vilar, Elista Olympiad, 1998. Black's situation has become so desperate that the king has come up on the board in an attempt to defend the weak points.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS Wins Runs % JOCKEYS Wins Runs %

SPECIALISTS
KEMPTON PARK: Trainers: C. Gifford, 30 winners from 28 runners, 34.6%; R. Abner, 15 from 45, 33.3%; P. Webber, 5 from 16, 31.2%; P. Nicholls, 7 from 25, 28.0%.

2.50 EDWARD HANMER MEMORIAL CHASE (SHOWCASE RACE)
(Limited handicap; £25,240; 3m) (6 runners)

3.20 NEWTON-LE-WILLOWS POLICE MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,773; 2m 10f) (10 runners)

3.55 HINDLEY GREEN HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,701; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Hereford: 1.00 Frame Of Mind, 3.00 Head Gardner.

RACELINE
09066 1684
HAYDOCK 101 201
KEMPTON 102 202
HEREFORD 103 203
6 HOUNDS 122 222

11.00 The Jack Deo Show 11.30 The Lady

# Time to place the horses first

I have been whacking horses a fair bit of late. So has Frankie Detori and so has Tony McCoy. Their whacking has made more of a mark than my own, as it were.

McCoy, the jump jockey, an extraordinarily talented serial champion at the age of 23, received an 18-day ban for his fifth whip offence this year on Monday. Detori did not get banned at all; his frenzied, not to say demented, assault on Swain in the Breders Cup Classic, the richest horse race ever run, had a rather different effect.

That kind of whacking is permitted in the United States and Frankie, freed from the shackles of British rules, made the most of his chance. It cost Swain the race.

Swain swerved violently away from the whip, then ran straight, true and fast as soon as Detori stopped whacking. Swain's crabbing across the track cost him vital ground and he was narrowly beaten. It was a poor way to treat a great racehorse, whether you are talking about horse welfare or winning races.

Both jockeys were sulky, and left victimised in the aftermath of these events. McCoy

petulantly threw his whip to the crowd in victory on Saturday and seemed disturbed, some said close to the point of breakdown. Detori was almost unapologetically monosyllabic when questioned about the Swain business. The words "I made a mistake" were beyond him.

It is an eternally difficult question. Both jockeys felt shattered because they were banned or criticised for doing their best. McCoy actually did get a slow horse home in first place; it is debatable whether another jockey could have done so. Both men feel hurt and confused. That is because the issue itself is confusing: an apparent paradox.

No one wants to employ a jockey who blinks in the moment of truth. Desire to win is part of a jockey's stock in trade. The jockey's desire is the final ingredient in the preparation of a racehorse to win a race. A jockey who gets a reputation as a softie will find himself unemployed. Owners and trainers want to win: jockeys need to please them.

Thus after the Derby, the winning jockey, Olivier Peslier, was banned for improper riding — but his mount (High-Rise) was not disqualified. Par-

## SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

adox again. The International Stakes at York gave us the most thrilling finish of the season. The first three jockeys home were all banned. The placings remained unaltered.

Meanwhile, I have been whacking my horse, intermittently, with an ugly thing called the Air Cushion Whip. Sir Peter O'Sullivan is campaigning for its compulsory use in racing. It is like hitting a horse with a rolled-up newspaper instead of a cane; it is effective as a strong signal, but not as painful coercion.

The whip has a different function in racing to normal horse life, so it is logical that racing needs a specialised device. A thing like the Air Cushion whip is ideal for minimising the pain of sustained and repeated whacking — racing is the only part of the horse world that requires such a thing — while allowing the rider to use force and rhythm and surprise; all things that help a horse to go a bit faster, put in a supreme effort.

McCoy already uses a cushioned whip, a different version and good on him for that. It is one that looks a little less ostentatiously benign, but the ban for its overuse only increases McCoy's sense of persecution.

There are several points to consider. Both McCoy and Detori ride with very short stirrup leathers. I couldn't begin to ride like that, still less jump. Remarkable riders, but their riding position means that use of the legs to drive a horse is limited if not impossible.

It follows that the whip is not the last but the first resort. Their stunningly effective use of balance and body position to urge a horse forward makes heavy use of the whip inevitable.

The second point is crucial: for whose benefit are the rules? The game is about winning; you will not find many puners appalled by overuse of the whip, not when their horse wins. And when racing people hear the words "animal welfare" they reach for their revolvers. There is much defensive talk about the "image of racing".

**N**ever mind image. The point is not that it is bad. Jockeys not only do their best; they are very anxious to be seen to be doing their best. It is an important part of the job: too important. Ostentatious use of the whip is often unnecessary; and in some cases, as Frankie could but will not tell us, downright counter-productive.

Marcus Armytage, a former jockey, wrote the other week about what must be done "if the animal welfare lobby is to be appeased". I suggest that racing pays absolutely no attention to the animal welfare lobby, whatever that is. Don't try to appease a lobby: try to look after the horses. It is a question of priorities.

## TENNIS: DEFEAT FOR SANCHEZ-VICARIO MEANS HINGIS IS UNABLE TO OVERHAUL AMERICAN

# Davenport confirmed as No 1

FROM ALIX RAMSAY  
IN NEW YORK

THAT is it, the race is over, we can all go home. Before she has even lifted a racket with intent here, Lindsay Davenport has been guaranteed her place at the top of the rankings ladder. In the final tournament of the year, there are not enough top players left for Martina Hingis to beat — and so gain enough bonus points — to overhaul Davenport for the No 1 spot. And it is all thanks to Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario.

As the Chase Championships eased into life on Monday night, Sanchez-Vicario played a stunningly awful match to lose to Irina Spirlea 7-6, 6-1 and so remove herself from the path of Hingis. It was, she said, the result of sheer exhaustion at the end of a very long season. It is a common cry around these parts at this time of year as the great and the good are undone by the reasonable and the average, although Spirlea is rather better than that.

She has had her moments, reaching the dizzy heights of No 7 last year, but she is an inconsistent soul who never seems to be able to maintain any momentum. What would it take to get back into the top ten or even break into the top five? "My brain has to work," Spirlea said. She may have her ups and downs, but she is nothing if not honest.



Van Roost returns with great determination in her first round victory over Martinez.

Much the same could be said of Nathalie Tauziat. Never one to make much of a fuss, she is, nevertheless, reaping the rewards of her most successful season on the circuit. The outing against Natasha Zvereva was a rematch of the

Wimbledon semi-final, but this time around there was less at stake and, as a result, nothing to be nervous about. Wasting as little time as possible, Tauziat won 6-3, 6-1 in front of a light sprinkling of dedicated supporters. "We

have played many times, but right now I am better than she is," Tauziat pointed out in her own inimitable style. This year, for the first time, the championships have two daytime sessions, but no one appears to have told the good

people of New York, and Tauziat and Zvereva looked awfully alone in Madison Square Garden. Still, it was only to be expected — the night before, the Coral WTA Tour had held its annual awards ceremony — and forgot to bring the trophies. Donald Trump was left looking like a piece of string without a knot in it, as he had nothing to give Davenport for being voted the player of the year. After an awards ceremony with no trophies, a match with no spectators seemed par for the course.

Not that the New York crowd, such as it is, is particularly knowledgeable about tennis. More used to watching the Knicks and the Rangers at this venue, one misguided, but well-meaning chap kept shouting "Come on Martina," as Conchita Martinez was losing to Dominique Van Roost on Monday night. In her efficient way, Van Roost whistled past the firing Spaniard 7-6, 6-1.

Van Roost looked like a school teacher, neatly dressed in navy blue with a pristine white collar, while Martinez looked like the errant pupil who had forgotten to do her homework. This is Martinez's least favourite tournament and her least favourite surface and, after a while, Van Roost's crunching forehand was her least favourite shot. Once the first set had escaped her, Martinez was in no mood to fight and, with the holidays beckoning, she was off.

## Sapsford finds new lease of life

DANNY SAPSFORD, who was thinking of retiring from tournament tennis less than three months ago, beat Chris Wilkinson, the No 1 seed, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) in the first round of the British National championships at Telford yesterday.

"I had hardly won a singles match all year and just before the US Open I was thinking of quitting," Sapsford said. "I told Jeremy Bates that if there were any coaching jobs going at the LTA to let me know. 'I meant to quit after the Bournemouth tournament in

September but then I paired up with Lan Bale, a South African player, and we qualified for the doubles at the US Open and won two rounds.

"Since then I've only played doubles and last week Lan and I reached the semi-final in Santiago. So now I'm taking doubles really seriously.

"It doesn't carry the prestige of singles but the bottom line is you want to pay the bills when you have a family and a mortgage. If you win a few rounds you are in the money." Sapsford's victory over

Wilkinson on his return to singles was not that unexpected. "I've beaten Willie the last four or five times we've met and felt I was favourite, which might sound a bit stupid when you're playing the top seed."

The other shock of the day came when Mark Hilton, 17, of Chester, beat Nick Gould, the No 5 seed from Bristol. 6-4, 6-4. Sam Smith, the top seed, began the defence of her women's singles title with a 6-2, 6-2 win over fellow Essex player Helen Crook.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

**FOOTBALL**  
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated  
International match  
England v Czech Republic (at Wembley Stadium, 8.0)

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Qualifying group two  
Albania v Greece (2.0)

**QUALIFYING GROUP THREE**  
Northern Ireland v Moldova (at Windsor Park, Belfast, 8.0)

**QUALIFYING GROUP FOUR**  
Malta v FYR Macedonia (7.0)

**EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Qualifying group eight  
Yugoslavia v Ireland (at Sardinia Stadium, 12.30)

**EUROPEAN UNDER-19 CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Qualifying group nine  
Scotland v Belgium (at St Mirren Park, Paisley)

**RUSSIAN FOOTBALL**  
Spartan v Brackford (2.0) Third division:  
Bury v Walsley (at Radcliffe Borough, 2.0)  
Sunderland v Hull (7.0); Wigan v Darlington (2.0)

**SCHWEPPESEN SENIOR LEAGUE**  
League Cup Group matches: Bowers v Huddersfield  
Sunderland v Hartlepool

**COMPLETE MUSIC HELLINIC LEAGUE**  
Prestige division: Carlton v Flamborough; EPC  
Chatham v Clontarf Academy; High-  
worth v Tuftley; Kintbury v Blosser; Soudon  
Supermarine v Wilmslow

**AIRPORT INSURANCE NORTH LEAGUE**  
Division One: Pershore v Sarnham Red Star  
Division Two: Sarnham Red Star v Pershore  
Bristolians v South Devon

**HIGHLAND LEAGUE**  
Premier division: Glen Cowan v  
Cairn Robin; Iona v Lennoxhead  
Division One: Fife v Strathmore; Perth v  
Highland

**JEWELLERY EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE**  
Premier division: Farnborough Port and Wip-  
loch  
Division One: Farnborough Port and Wip-  
loch

**INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS MIDLAND INVITA-  
TION**  
Division One: Forest Green v Dudley Town v  
Brierley Hill

**UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH**  
Portugal v Wales (at Brecon, 2.0)

**UNITED LEAGUE**  
First division: Dagenham v Leyton; Second division: Dagenham v Leyton

**RUSSIAN FOOTBALL**  
Spartan v Brackford (2.0) Third division:  
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## TELEVISION CHOICE

# Escape to the Middle Ages

## Behind Closed Doors

A series on people who like to keep themselves to themselves opens at a Cistercian Monastery in Leicestershire. Mount Saint Bernard Abbey is home to 38 monks who have decided to leave the world that most of us inhabit for a life of chastity. They live in a cloistered world with comfortable rooms, study and prayer. Although they are not bothered by many of the stresses and irritations of the late 20th century, their days are full. They are up at 3.15am and, meals apart, there are few spare minutes in a day devoted to the celebration of God. The vow of silence was dropped some years ago but one of the monks claims that their regime has not changed that much since the Middle Ages. Critics who see the monastic existence as a cop-out receive no answer, nor do we discover how this cloistered way of life is paid for.

## Hornblower

ITV, 8.00pm  
After a successful launch in September, which drew nearly nine million viewers and much critical praise, the Hornblower series resumes a month earlier than planned. Perhaps the only grumble about another polished and intelligent film, which scores particularly highly in the visual department, is the lack of a unifying plot. With two hours to fill the episodic structure is sometimes a handicap, though this is not for want of incident. Scuffles with the Spanish, a brush with the plague and a seaman who goes off the rails after the death of a colleague are among the storylines which keep the narrative flowing. The binding theme, meanwhile, is the continuing education of our young hero, air-travelling played by Ioan Gruffudd, as he rises, not without alarms, up the chain of command.

## War and Piste

BBC1, 10.00pm  
A truly awful title heralds the BBC's latest venture into documentary soap, a series set in the French ski resort of Val d'Isere and featuring the Brits who work there during the four-month season. With the first episode little more than a scene-setter, *War and Piste* gets off to a quiet start but: things will no



Chalet girls Katrina and Camilla feature in *War and Piste* (BBC1, 10pm)

doubt (even up once the first guests arrive. Meanwhile, viewers can amuse themselves trying to spot the stars which docu-soaps unfailingly create. Will they come from the ranks of the chalet girls and boys, who have to cook and clean for just £55 a week (though their skiing is free)? Or what about Natasha, who has been put in charge of the chalet staff despite having no management experience? But the early money must be on Fraser and Scott, public schoolboys who have driven 700 miles in an old Rover hoping for casual work.

## Bob and Margaret

Channel 4, 10.30pm  
Welcome back to Bob, the suburban dentist, and Margaret, his chiropractic wife, whose creators did Britain proud at the 1995 Oscars by winning the award for best short animation. That 12-minute comedy by Alison Snowden and David Fine has been developed into a series, which may appropriate traditional sitcom territory but often does so in a fresh and funny way. Episode one sees the nerdy Bob and Margaret stuck at home with nothing to watch on the telly and trying to cope with their manic evening with a pizza and a video. Then the neighbours invite them there to bore them with their new baby from hell. Snowden herself provides the voice of Margaret, while listeners to *The News Quiz* on Radio 4 will note that Bob sounds exactly like Andy Hamilton. Peter Waymark

## RADIO CHOICE

### Wildbrain

Radio 4, 1.30pm  
Everything you always wanted to know about wild life but were afraid to ask. David Attenborough can be dragged out of the hedgerows of knowledge in this quiz, back for another series. The idea is to find the best naturalist in Britain and contestants are drawn from real life rather than the coterie of media professionals. The title the winner gets at the end of the series is of course *Wildbrain 98*; but there is something to enjoy in an otherwise dull curriculum. Lionel Kellaway chairs the quiz and the first programme comes from Tring in Hertfordshire, where the contestants are Richard Birch, a field botanist, Geoff Chase, a science teacher, and Nigel Snell, a conservation officer with English Nature.

### RADIO 1 (BBC)

5.30am Zoe Ball 6.00 Simon Webb 12.00 Kevin Greening  
includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearson 8.00 The Evening News 10.00 Lizzy Loane 10.10 Jazz 10.30 John Peel 12.00am DJ's 12.00am DJ's

### RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to It 9.30 Richard Allison 12.00 Johnnie Walker 2.00pm Ed Stewart 3.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Nick Barraclough 8.00 News 9.00 The Evening News 10.00 Lizzy Loane 10.10 Jazz 10.30 John Peel 12.00am DJ's 12.00am DJ's

### RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 The Midday News with Anne Weir 1.00pm News and 4.00pm Drive with Peter Allen 8.00am News Extra. A full round-up and the main highlights of the day, with David McNeil 7.30am; Sunday's Football Night Coverage of the night's top match. Plus the National Lottery Result 10.00am; Lottery 11.00pm; Late Night Live 1.00am; Up All Night

### VIRGIN

6.00am Jonathan Ross 9.30am Radio 2 1.00pm Nick Baker 4.00am John Peel 7.30am News 10.00am Janey Lee 1.00pm James Martin 4.30am Jeremy Clark

### TALK RADIO

5.00am Bill Overton 6.00 The Breakfast Show 9.00 Scott Cheshire 12.00am Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Anna Reabum, See Choice 4.00 Peter Dinkley's Drive-time 6.00 The Sports Zone 10.00 James Whale 12.00am Collette

### RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Stephanie Hughes. Includes Bach (Violin Concerto in A, BWV1052); Haydn (Scherzando No 3 in D, HVI 35); Weber (Overture: "Polka"); Brahms (Violin Concerto in D, Op 77); Schubert (Piano: Fantasy in D, D 959); Chopin (Piano: Mazurka in A minor, Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)  
6.00am Masterworks with Peter Hobbay, Rossini (Overture: Semiramide); Mozart (Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy, K 330); Lully (Chaconne, Act 5 of *Alceste*); Debussy (Touche Concerto) two pianos; Charpentier (Te deum); Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D)  
10.30 Artist of the Week: Charles Mackerras  
11.00 Sound Stories with Peggy Reynolds  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms  
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: Constantin Lissitz, piano; Haydn (Sonata in D, HVI 19: Divertimento), Ravel (Gaspard de la Nuit); Chopin (Mazurka in A minor, Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38)  
2.00 The BBC Orchestra's BBC National Orchestra of Wales under the baton of the new conductor, John Neschling, performs a two-piano recital, with Ouka, Aleksander Madzar, piano, includes Smetana (Mlada, Ma Vlast); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor)  
4.00 Choral Evening Live from Portsmouth Cathedral. Organist and master of the choristers David Price. Assistant organist David Thome  
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the singer Patricia

Rozano about 21 years of the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival  
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) Live from the Royal Festival Hall, John Rogers, soprano, BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Mark Wigglesworth, Tippett (The Rose Lake); Strauss (Four Last Songs) 8.30 Book of the Month 8.30 Concert, part two, Brahms (Symphony No 4 in E minor)  
9.35 Postscript: Magnum photographers consider their achievements in creating portraits of celebrities  
10.00 Ensemble A Programme inspired by children, including a performance of by Philippe Grillon, violin, and Stephen Coombes, piano  
10.45 Night Waves Laura Cumming reassesses the life and work of the Italian painter Caravaggio in the light of two new studies. Plus a look at Edward McGregor as the disruptive student suspended from art school in a new production of David Halliwell's *Little Malcolm and the Battle against the Euruchs*

11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shiplin presents the second of two excerpts from a concert given in Edinburgh by Carol Kidd and her band.  
12.00 Composer of the Week: Debussy (I)  
1.00pm Through the Night with Donald Macleod

### RADIO 4

6.00am Case Notes Graham Easton discovers how the body clock affects an individual's wellbeing (I)  
6.30 Thinking Allowed with Laune Taylor and guests  
6.50 PM with Chris Lowe and Eddie Mar  
8.00 Six O'Clock News  
8.30 Reiner Herscov's All Classical Music Explained  
Tongue-in-cheek guide to music with Richard Thomas and Tasmin Little  
9.00 The Archers  
9.45 (LW) Daily Service  
10.00 Women's Hour with Jenny Murray and guests  
11.00 Live Luggage Fly-on-the-wall series about luggage and start at Heathrow Airport  
11.30 Fanny Boneses Jimmy Tarbuck and Rhona Cameron discuss comedy through the generations  
12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 12.00 (LW) News 12.04pm Yes and No with Tracy Rawlinson and Mark Whittaker  
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke  
1.30 Wildbrain The first of a new series with Lionel Kellaway. See Choice  
2.00 The Archers (I)  
2.15 The Wrong Side of the River by Mary Cooper and Peter Stifford. A woman's South Bank past comes back to haunt her and the city extorts its pull as she prepares for the Marina Centre's big opening night. Starring Geoff Hinshel, Lesley Nichol and Sarah Brigham  
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time Bob Flowerdew, John Cushnie and Anne Swinbank answer questions posed by students, parents and staff at Slover School, Newton Abbot (I)  
3.30 Revolving Doors: Crime and Justice  
4.48 Revival of Samuel Longwood's Revue, by Mary E. Braddon. Read by Barbara Flynn (3/4)

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4.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

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**Answers from page 41**

**AUCUBA**  
(c) A mosaic disease which attacks the solanaceous plants. "It was not possible to distinguish serologically the viruses of tobacco mosaic, aucuba mosaic and tomato streak."

**GARROCHA**  
(a) A blunt pole used for prodding cattle in the silly "sport" of bull-fighting.

**BOMBORA**  
(b) A dangerous stretch of water where the waves break over a submerged reef of rocks. The Aboriginal word.

**DUBBELTJIE**  
(c) One of several South African weeds, especially Tribulus terrestris or Ernex Australis. Southern Afrikaans.

Solution to Winning Move  
1. Rxb6! 2. Qxe6 3. Rxe6+ 3. Rxe6 checkmate.

**WORD-WATCHING**

كُنْزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Behind t

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 80.2-82.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 159. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 150 (2.45-5.55am). Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Behind the posturing, everyday life for Iraqis

A war correspondent rushing in and out of Baghdad in a hurry might easily think that Kifah and Alla, two of the many Government-appointed minders that Saddam Hussein likes to clamp on to visiting journalists...

badly for Kifah. And the worse things got for Kifah, the better they got for Sean McAllister and the film he was making for Modern Times (BBC2). McAllister had come to Baghdad, like scores of other journalists and cameramen, to make a film of the impending war...

I was a glimpse into life in Baghdad you don't see in those 90-second news clips from journalists who are speaking excitedly to camouflage the fact that their entire knowledge of the day's battle movements comes from a briefing by an American press attaché delivered in an hotel room 200 miles from the war zone.



Joe Joseph

and has little to show for the life he has lived. All his young man's dreams have become middle-aged pipedreams. He has no wife, no house of his own, no car. Not even a watch: he sold it, also for food...

The Iraqi people are as much cartoon characters to us as we Westerners are to them - both demonised as evil zealots by our respective media. McAllister may not come across as the most sensitive interviewer, but his intimate and moving film reminded you that the world is (mostly) full of sane, decent people, struggling to make ends meet and to make sense of life: it's the leaders, such as Saddam, who are mad.

W can never know how much of the bosses' head-shaking outrage is manufactured for the camera (would somebody taking this project seriously arrive on site, as Pigdig did, dressed in a business suit in his chauffeur-driven aubergine Bentley?), but it is breathtaking to see how many companies don't bother to find out how angry their customers or their staff are until the television cameras or the bankruptcy bailiffs come knocking at their door.

First over the drawbridge was Force, which was not only the first ready-to-eat cereal, but also the pioneer of the practice of saving coupons from packet tops which could be later exchanged for a set of tumblers, so garish that you'd be embarrassed to use them even for target practice on a rifle range. Brian Finken, the UK managing director of Force between 1952 and 1985, recalled that "it was a great marketing struggle to begin with to get people educated to know how to use it, which might explain why breakfast cereals - advertised not only as healthy but as aids to digestion - were so slow to take off in France. The French must have assumed as with other trusted health treatments - that Force flakes were a novel American form of suppository."

REVIEW

Table of TV listings for various channels including BBC1, BBC2, CENTRAL, CHANNEL 4, and CHANNEL 5. Includes program titles, times, and brief descriptions.



Ioan Gruffudd returns as the merlinlike hero, Horatio Hornblower (9pm)



All Saints perform their new single live in the studio (7.30pm)

Table of satellite and cable listings for channels like Nickelodeon, Trouble, Disney Channel, and others. Includes program titles and times.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'card tests', 'rest rates', 'timistic', 'obs warning', 'signs chief', 'r head cashes', 'at work', 'weekend', 'led Sage', '44777', 'EXT 11'

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18 1998



## RUGBY UNION 37

### Former Argentina international makes debut for Australia

# Hoddle delivers snub to Southgate

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

BRIDGE clubs, be they in the Home Counties or the Bronx, are not readily associated with calls to arms. Still, a few optimists went to the South Bucks branch yesterday hoping to be stirred, to be rallied, to be told that things were going to get better for the England football team at Wembley tonight after the trials and tribulations of previous months. But after Glenn Hoddle had finished with them, bridge clubs everywhere breathed a sigh of relief.

Everyone knows that the England coach is hardly a troublemaker. He is not an expansive man, not someone given to shows of passion, spontaneity or lyricism. But at a time when England and their supporters need all the cheer they can get, the stolid, grim pose he struck on a day when even his detractors were seeking reasons for optimism would not have enlivened a whist drive, let alone the build-up to an international football match.

Hoddle was in a bad mood, apparently. He was cross, he later told television and radio stations, about the manner in which some newspapers yesterday morning had treated his studiously unconvictional comments about David Beckham. He had a right to be annoyed, but rather than confront the problem, dismiss it and move on to the raising of spirits for the match against the Czech Republic at Wembley tonight, Hoddle chose to sulk.

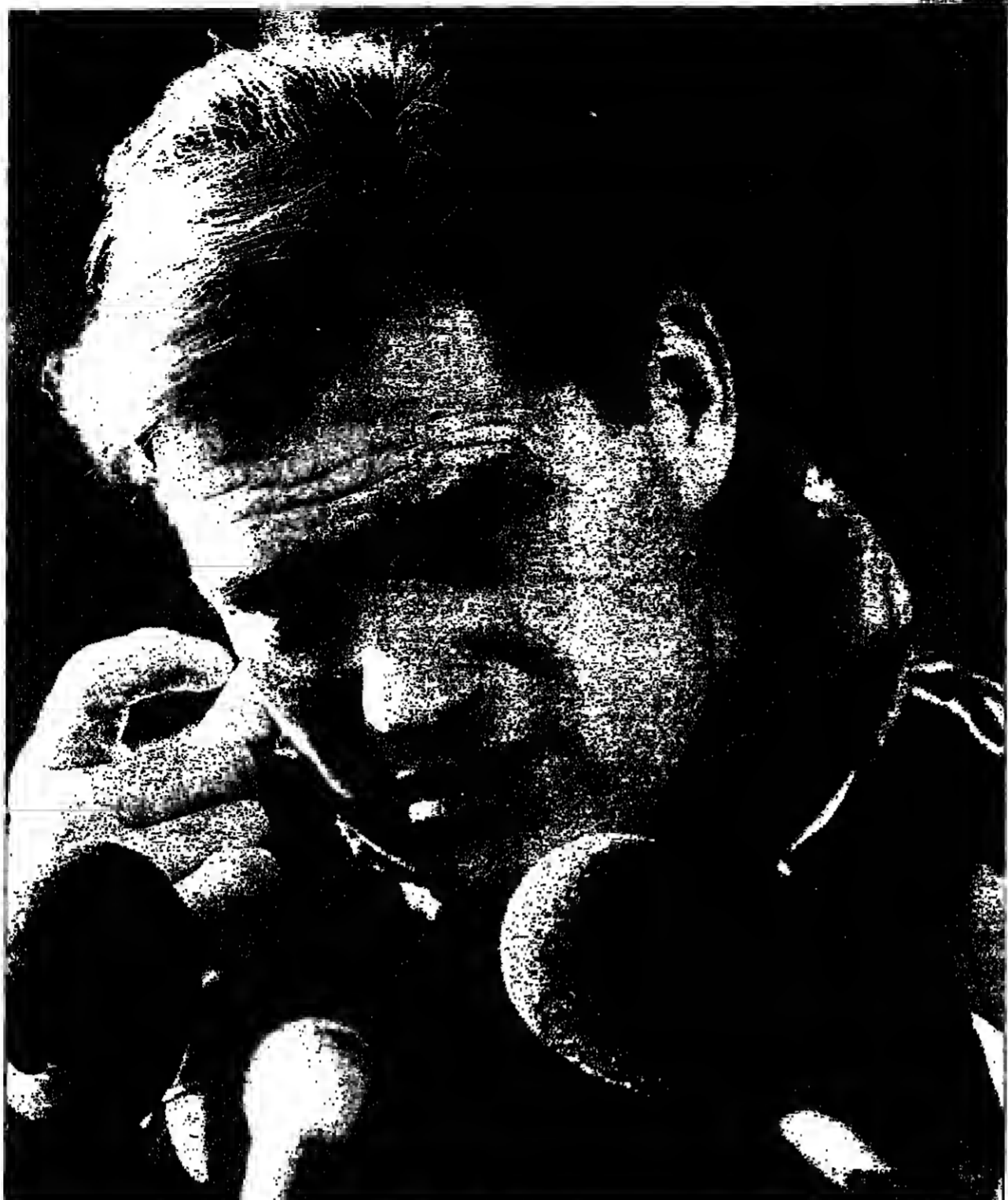
Sometimes it is almost as if he is courting adverse criticism. Last night, for example,

it appeared that he had left Gareth Southgate out of the starting line-up, even after the Aston Villa centre half had gone to the extreme of having the birth of his first child, a daughter, induced so that he could join up with the squad. Many had expected Southgate to be rewarded with the captaincy for that sacrifice, but he was consigned to the substitutes' bench instead.

Invited to praise the patriotism and commitment of Southgate, Hoddle ventured only this: "A squad was chosen, he was in it and now he has arrived." Is it any wonder that, one by one, he appears to be systematically alienating his men? Their respect for him seems to be dwindling by the day. If England scored as many own goals as their coach, they would already be out of the European championship.

The bright points in the line-up are a chance for Rio Ferdinand and at the centre of the back three, the handing of the captaincy to the consistently excellent Sol Campbell and the presence of the Aston Villa teammates, Paul Merson and Dion Dublin, in a lively front three. Lee Hendrie, the young Villa midfielder player, is also likely to make an appearance as a substitute. Hoddle could and should have emphasised those positives. Instead, he chose recalcitrance.

In some ways, of course, it does not matter what he says to the press or what is written and said about him. But the climate of suspicion and antagonism fostered by his attitude seeps through to players who



A reluctant Hoddle faces the media yesterday as England prepare for their match against the Czech Republic

have been less than impressed with their coach for some time now. They read the papers, particularly the tabloid papers, and each public relations blunder that Hoddle makes increases the pressure on them at a time when they need unconditional backing to restore their shattered confidence.

At one stage, he was so reluctant to talk about the need for a convincing victory against the Czechs, to propel England into a new year with renewed vigour, that he seemed to be suggesting a defeat might be just as welcome. "In many ways," he said, "I might learn a lot more about the players if the game does not go smoothly. If they do not perform for whatever reason, then I will learn from that as well."

One would think that he had experienced more than enough adversity in the past few months to wish any more upon his players. They have only won three of their past eight games, after all, and the

last of those — the 3-0 win over Luxembourg — was so unconvincing it was met with a chorus of jeers from the travelling fans.

Even if, as he said, the true importance of the match against the Czechs is as a building block towards the next European championship qualifying game, against Poland at

Wembley on March 27, securing a win tonight is vital if the siege mentality that has settled over England is to be lifted, and hope of making it to Holland and Belgium in 2000 is to be rekindled.

The last thing that Hoddle or his players need is to be booed off again at Wembley, as they were after their 0-0

draw with Bulgaria last month, but Hoddle was loath even to acknowledge this fact. "What you guys need for tomorrow morning," he told the assembled reporters, "and what I need for next March are miles apart."

The most satisfying thing for me would be to go and see some of the players who have been on the fringe of the squad go out there and do well. I want players to hit me in the eye. But if they don't, they shouldn't feel that they will be cast out of the squad. Sol will be captain because he leads by example. The players respond to him. I don't want to cast my mind back to what happened after the Bulgaria game. It is negative. You have to throw yourself forward. If these players go out there with fear, it will be detrimental to their performance. They are not on trial."

### TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

- ACROSS**
- 1 Quibble (5)
  - 7 Principle (7)
  - 8 Woodblock [floor] (7)
  - 9 Ham it up (7)
  - 11 Saturate (6)
  - 13 Restless desire (for) (9)
  - 15 US Western film tough-guy (4,5)
  - 19 Hearty laugh (6)
  - 21 Prohibits (7)
  - 23 Variant of element (7)
  - 24 Reticule; Jack Worthing mislaid in one (7)
  - 25 Call across Swiss valley (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Love god (5)
  - 2 Engulfing spiral (eg of whirlpool) (6)
  - 3 Get (project) started (6)
  - 4 Ban (4)
  - 5 Looking-glass (6)
  - 6 Railed platform; theatre area (7)
  - 10 Norse raider; a sea area (6)
  - 12 Risk, danger (6)
  - 14 Washington DC river (7)
  - 16 A necessity; Footer, for Gros-smiths (6)
  - 17 Speech of praise (6)
  - 18 Provide; be able to purchase (6)
  - 20 Execute turning movement (5)
  - 22 Breathily gesture; the Moor's Last, Rusdith (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1565**

ACROSS: 1 Shibboleth 9 Analogy 10 Twirl 11 Till 12 Nutrient 14 Retort 15 Balsam 18 Friendly 20 Fire 22 Radh 23 Galilee 24 Sixth sense

DOWN: 2 Hoof 3 Bayeux 4 Outbreak 5 Exile 6 Half-timbered 7 Master of Arts 8 Pallet 13 Brandish 16 Shield 17 Plague 19 Index 21 Alms

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## CRICKET 39

### Confidence growing that Atherton will take Test place

# Europe's top clubs ready for kick-off

By Rob Hughes

THOSE who believe it is all over, that Uefa, European football's governing body, has regained full control of the Champions' League and that Media Partners and any other outsiders have lost, may only have half the truth. In a casino in Madrid yesterday, 14 of Europe's leading clubs pronounced themselves to be behind Uefa and ready to kick off the European authorities' proposed new 32-club format from next season.

Fine, Sepp Blatter, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, followed that up with a clear statement: No parties outside the football establishment would be allowed to get their hands on the European competitions, or the vast monies from television rights and sponsorships that have attracted the at-

tempt this year to take them out of Uefa control.

However, after the casino meeting, Lorenzo Sanz, the president of Real Madrid, and evidently the host to this gathering of the self-elected elite, warned: "We are not a parallel Uefa. We are collaborating with Uefa. We are a working group and we don't want to replace anyone."

'Perhaps Sanz is trying to clear Real Madrid's debts'

Then Sanz, whose own club has regained past glories but continues to struggle against insolvency, declared that he is to be secretary to an even smaller select group of five clubs — Real Madrid, AC Milan, Bayern Munich, Porto and Marseille — who intend to serve as a sub-group, in continuous discussion with Uefa. Naturally, their business will involve the cutting of the cake, the intention of big clubs to get the biggest slice of the €275 million Uefa believes it can generate from the Champions' League next season.

But wait. Barely two months ago Sanz warned Uefa that it would rue the day it fined and ordered Real Madrid to play its next European game on neutral territory after the shambles of the collapsed goalsposts at the Bernabeu stadium last season. He

now darkly suggests that the sub-group will seek discussions over fines, and over other matters of Fifa rule.

When Blatter yesterday supported the status quo, he mentioned that it amounted to anarchy for organisations outside the sporting authorities to try to rule. Is it not anarchy if the clubs that are, for the moment, all powerful, also attempt to prejudice not only the distribution of profits, but now also whether or not they should be subjected to punishment when they err?

The main conclusion in Madrid yesterday came from the so-called G-14 — the clubs who deem themselves to be Europe's elite. They are Real Madrid, Barcelona, AC Milan, Internazionale, Juventus, Manchester United, Liverpool, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Ajax, PSV Eindhoven, Marseilles, Paris St Germain and FC Porto.

They propose that income should reflect the omnipotence of the leading clubs in the leading nations. They want 45 per cent of the total to go to clubs from England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, 25 per cent to be distributed to all the participating clubs, and the remaining 30 per cent to be handed out as prize-money.

One might almost suspect that Sanz is attempting to clear Real Madrid's debts by the end of the decade.

In their togetherness the 14 (or is it the five?) will surely sow disharmony among others. Can you imagine the thoughts of David Dein, the vice-chairman of Arsenal, who was vigorous in putting the case for change within Uefa, and who now discovers that Arsenal are outside the elite?

The 51 countries affiliated to Uefa will meet in Geneva next week to discuss their response. Uefa is scheduled to round up their final offer on December 11, and one week later the group calling themselves G-14 will meet again. Change is upon us, democracy might take longer.

### PROBABLE TEAMS AT WEMBLEY

**ENGLAND (3-4-1-2)**

N Martin (Leeds United)

R Ferdinand (West Ham Utd) (Totterham, captain)

S Campbell (West Ham Utd)

M Keown (Aston Villa)

D Beckham (Man Utd)

G Le Saux (Chelsea)

I Anderson (Totterham)

P Merson (Aston Villa)

D Duffin (West Ham Utd)

**CZECH REPUBLIC (3-5-2)**

V Smolcer (FC Slovan)

F Kuka (FC Hradec Králové)

P Berger (Liverpool)

R Lalat (Sokolka 04)

R Beljal (All Medic)

T Volava (K Boborsky)

T Rapka (Fiorantina)

J Novotny (Sparta Prague)

M Kutilek (Olomouc)

P Kouba (Victoria Zizkov)

Reference: U Meier (Switzerland) TV: ITV, 11.10; Highlights

# Hemery strikes gold again

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

THIRTY years after achieving the ultimate athletic goal, winning an Olympic gold medal with a world record, David Hemery has been voted into the most powerful post in British athletics. It is almost as long since Harold Abrahams, the 1924 *Chariots of Fire* Olympic 100 metres champion, thought that Hemery had the credentials to become the sport's most influential official, but then changed his mind.

Hemery was revealed yesterday — to his surprise — as the first president of Athletics UK. A vote by a sturdy 46 per cent of Britain's 1,604 clubs gave him a margin of victory every bit as clear-cut as the one he had at the 1968 Mexico Olympics. Hemery recounted how Abrahams, who governed British athletics for many years, had suggested to him in 1972 that he might be a suitable successor — until he heard his radical ideas on professionalism, medical support, and separate administration for the elite and masses.

As Hemery pointed out yesterday, if they were radical views then, they are substance now. Yet, until yesterday, Hemery had not been voted into any official role in the sport since he was chairman of the International Athletics Club in 1973 and 1974. He has worked on the periphery, but mostly he has been committed to his management training business.

It is a business he shares with David Whitaker, the coach to Great Britain's 1988 Olympic gold-medal winning men's hockey team, and Sir John Whitmore, a former European saloon car champion. When Hemery was asked to stand for the presidency, an unpaid post, he was encouraged by Whitaker and Whitmore. The greater flexibility they were offering him at work convinced him he should.

With the biggest clubs having five votes, down to one for the smallest, Hemery polled 426 — a winning margin of more than 100 votes. Sir Eddie Kulukundis, the theatre impresario and athletics benefactor, polled 309; Steve Ovett, the 1980 Olympic 800 metres champion, 274; Tom McNab, the coach and writer, 129; and

### FAST TRACK TO THE TOP

Date: July 18, 1994, Chatterbox

The athletes' Won Olympic 400 metres hurdles gold medal in world record 48.12sec at the 1984 Olympic Games in Mexico City. Three times winner of the BBC Sports Personality award.

The official chairman of International Athletes' Club (1973-74), and president of Athletics UK (1998).

The businessman has run a business for the past ten years, applying the principles of coaching into management training to motivate the worker.

The author of another *Hemery* (1978), *Sporting Excellence — What Makes A Champion?* (1990), *Athletics in Action* (1987), *Winning Without Drugs* (1990).



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